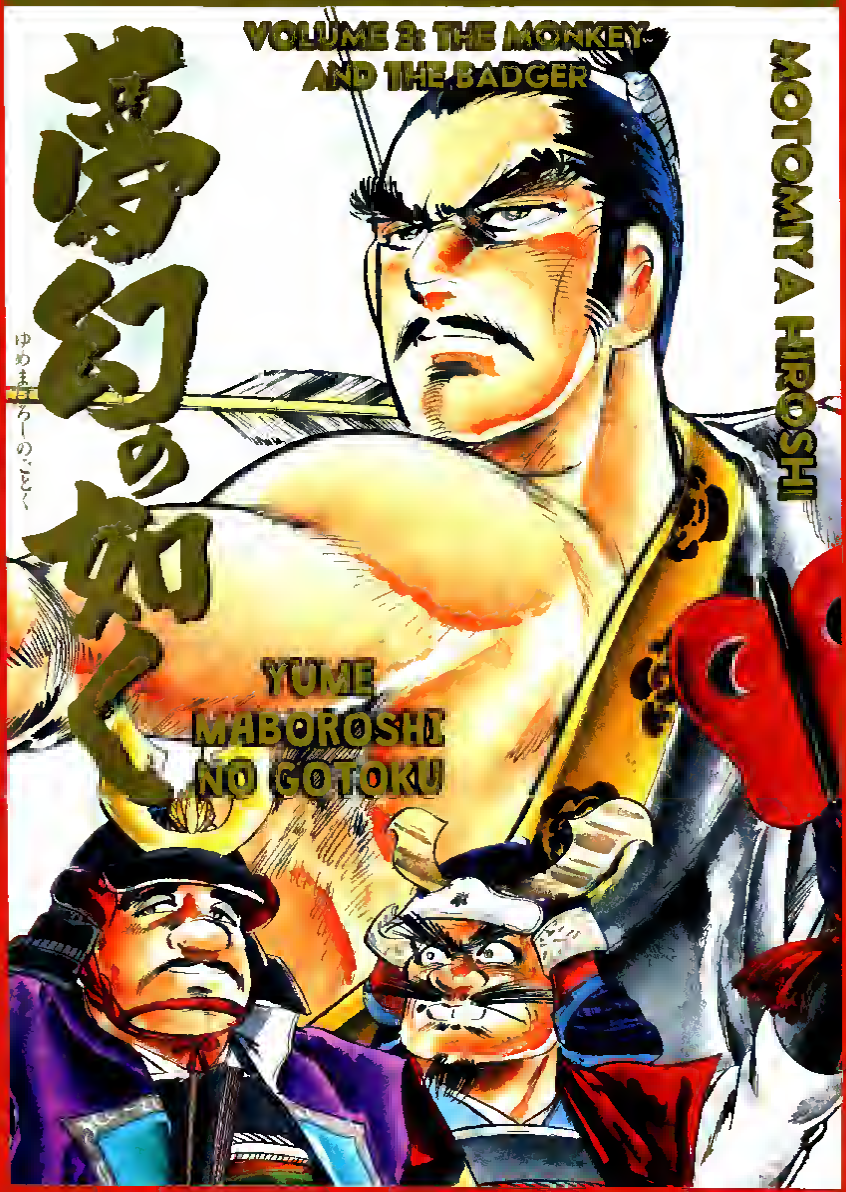
VOLUME 3: THE MONKEY AND THE BADGER
MOTOMIYA HIROSHI
夢幻の如く
ゆめまぼろしのごとく
YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

Yume Maboroshi no Gotoku
Motomiya Hiroshi
Volume 3: The Monkey and the Badger

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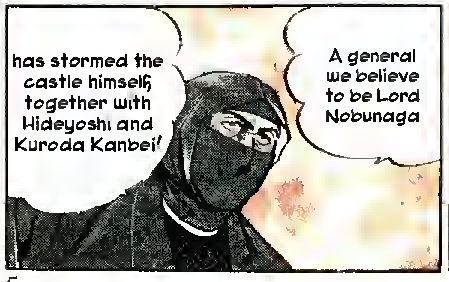
Chapter 20: The Monkey's Ambition

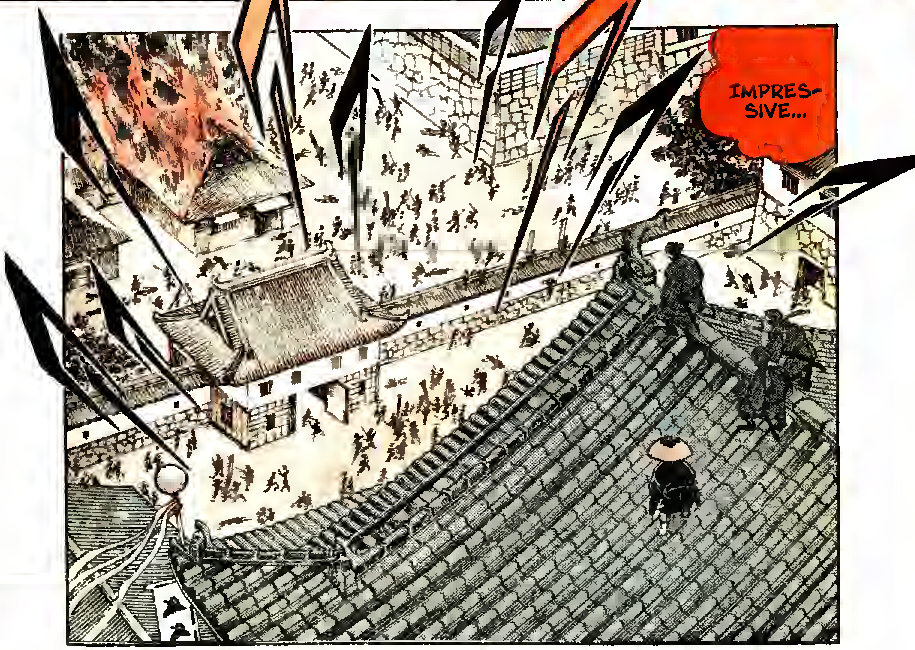
After the Incident of Honno Temple, Oda Nobunaga appeared alive before Hashiba Hideyoshi, and assisted Hideyoshi's conquest of the nation under the name "Tenchi Yumenosuke". The Oda Clan was in the midst of a battle for succession. Hideyoshi's and Katsuie's armies glared each other down. The battle was in a stalemate. But who should devise a plan and move the immovable army, but Nobunaga! Faced with Hideyoshi's army's unexpected return, Shibata Katsuie's army is left no option but retreat!

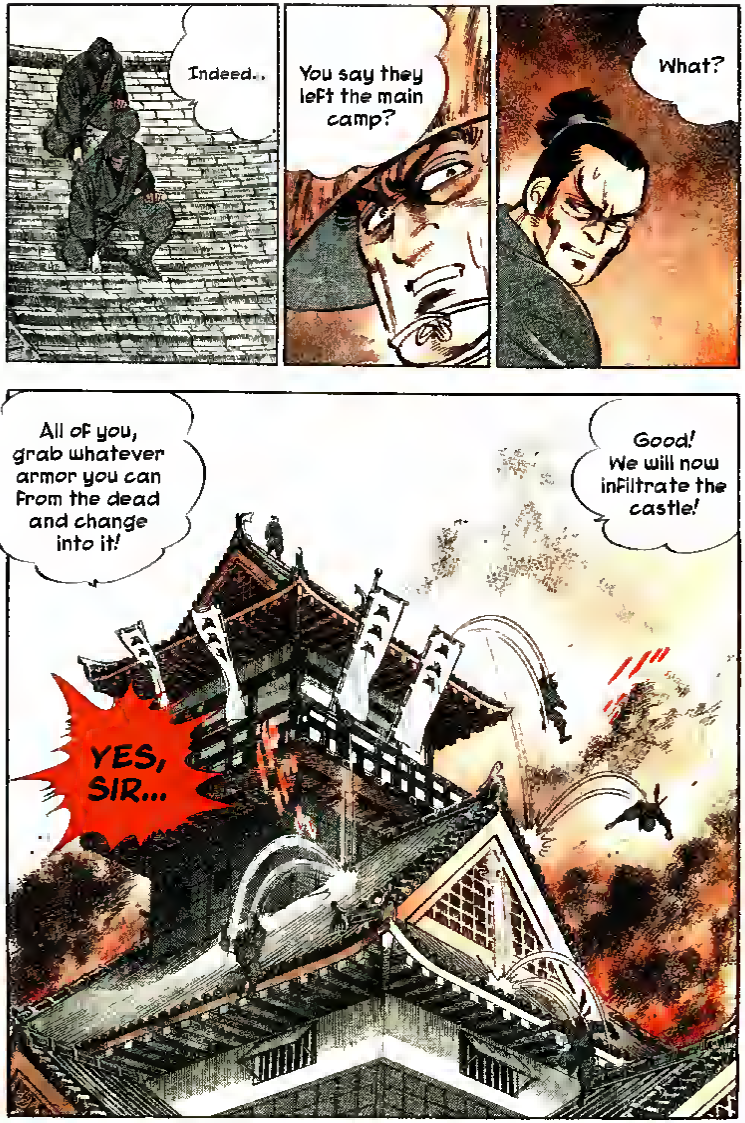
Chapter 14: The Battle of Kitanosho

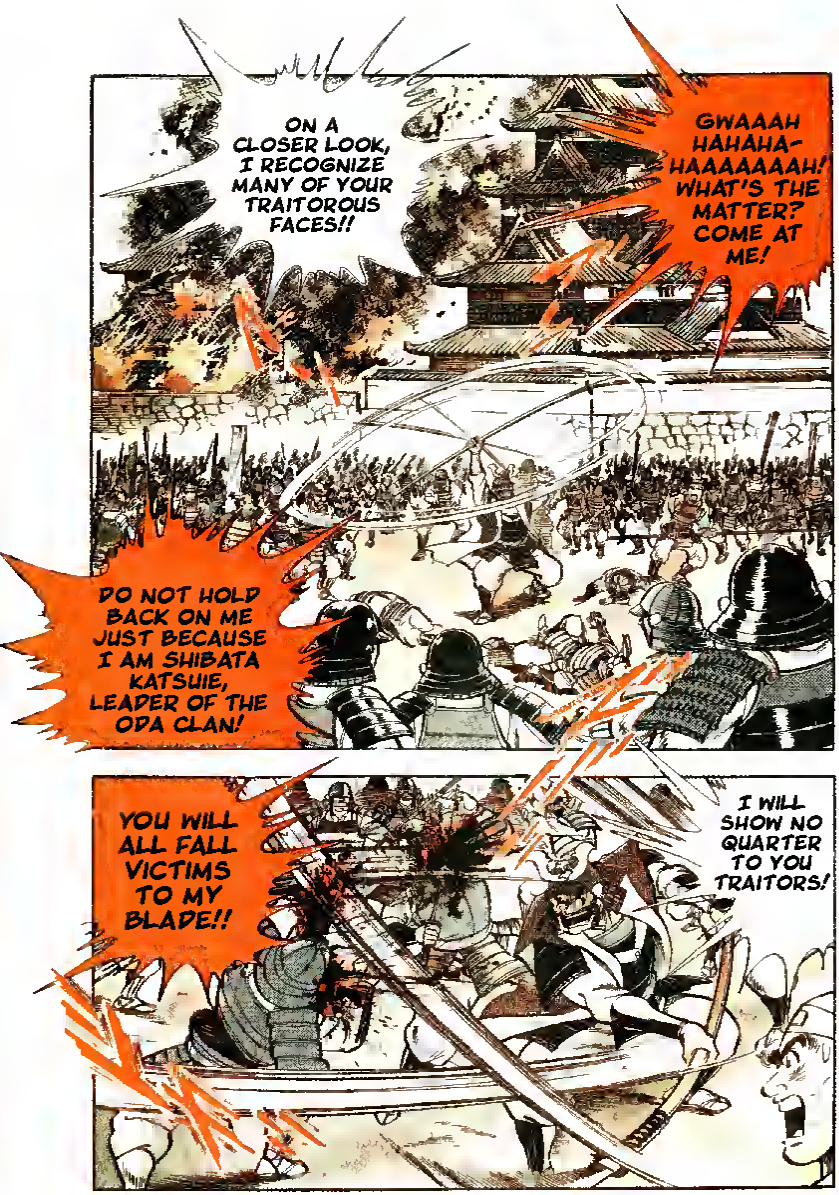
Reporting in!

They are fighting well attacking headlong against Hideyoshi's thirty thousand.
I expected no less from the Devil Shibata's three hundred aides.

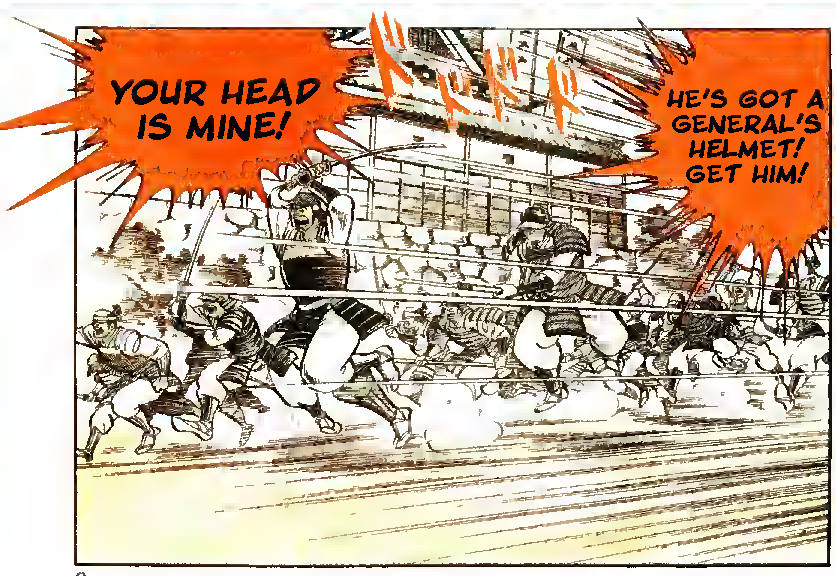

has stormed the castle himself, together with Hideyoshi and Kuroda Kanbei!
A general we believe to be Lord Nobunaga


IMPRES-SIVE...


Indeed..
You say they left the main camp?
What?
All of you, grab whatever armor you can from the dead and change into it!
Good! We will now infiltrate the castle!
YES, SIR...


ON A CLOSER LOOK, I RECOGNIZE MANY OF YOUR TRAITOROUS FACES!!
GWAAAH HAHAHA-HAAAAAAAH! WHAT'S THE MATTER? COME AT ME!
DO NOT HOLD BACK ON ME JUST BECAUSE I AM SHIBATA KATSUIE, LEADER OF THE ODA CLAN!
YOU WILL ALL FALL VICTIMS TO MY BLADE!!
I WILL SHOW NO QUARTER TO YOU TRAITORS!

SO WHEN I DIE, FETCH ME MY CASKET...
IT IS A BLESSING THAT I HAVE LASTED THIS LONG...
AND THIS YEAR, I AM FORTY-NINE...
FIFTY YEARS ARE THE LIFE OF MAN...


YOUR HEAD IS MINE!
HE'S GOT A GENERAL'S HELMET! GET HIM!

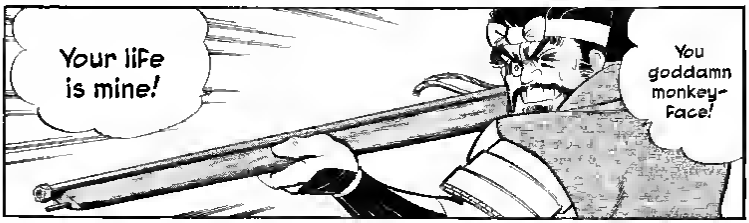
MEN HAVE BEEN DYING FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS ALREADY!
GWAHHAHA! DIE, DIE! DEATH'S NOT SUCH A BIG DEAL!

STAND DOWN, YOU SCUM!!
I AM KURODA KANBEI YOSHITAKA!!
IT HAS COME...
HIDE-YOSHI!!
T-That's...

LIKE A DREAM,
AND AN ILLUSION...
Nobu-naga!
Damn you...

KILL...
KILL...
THE ENEMY GENERAL HASHIBA HIDEYOSHI IS HERE!
LOOK! IT'S HIDEYOSHI!

GET HIM!
YEAAAAH HHHHHH!

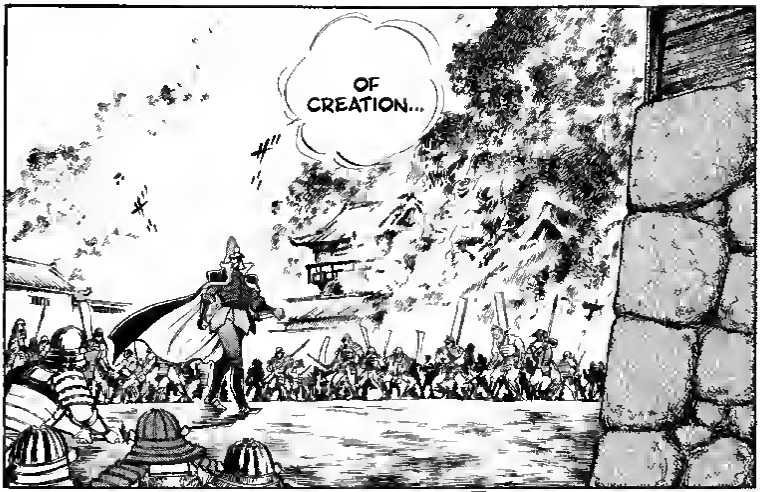

Your life is mine!
You goddamn monkey-face!

KAN-BEEEII IIIIII!!
KILL HIM!

Die...
You must not be alive in this world, Nobunaga!

YOU BAST-ARDS!!
SHUT UP!

WHA AAA AAA T!?
W...
DO NOT MOVE!
MOT- HER!
NO...
N...
THE WHOLE...
COMPARED TO...


OF CREATION...

W...

That's...
Ah!
Who is that.?

MUST ONE DAY...
ALL THAT HAVE LIFE...
Gonroku...
I've come for you,
DIE...

AAA
AAA
UUUU
GGG
HHHH
HHH!
Oh...
Tears do not suit your face, do they?
For God's sake...
Uhh...
Ohh...

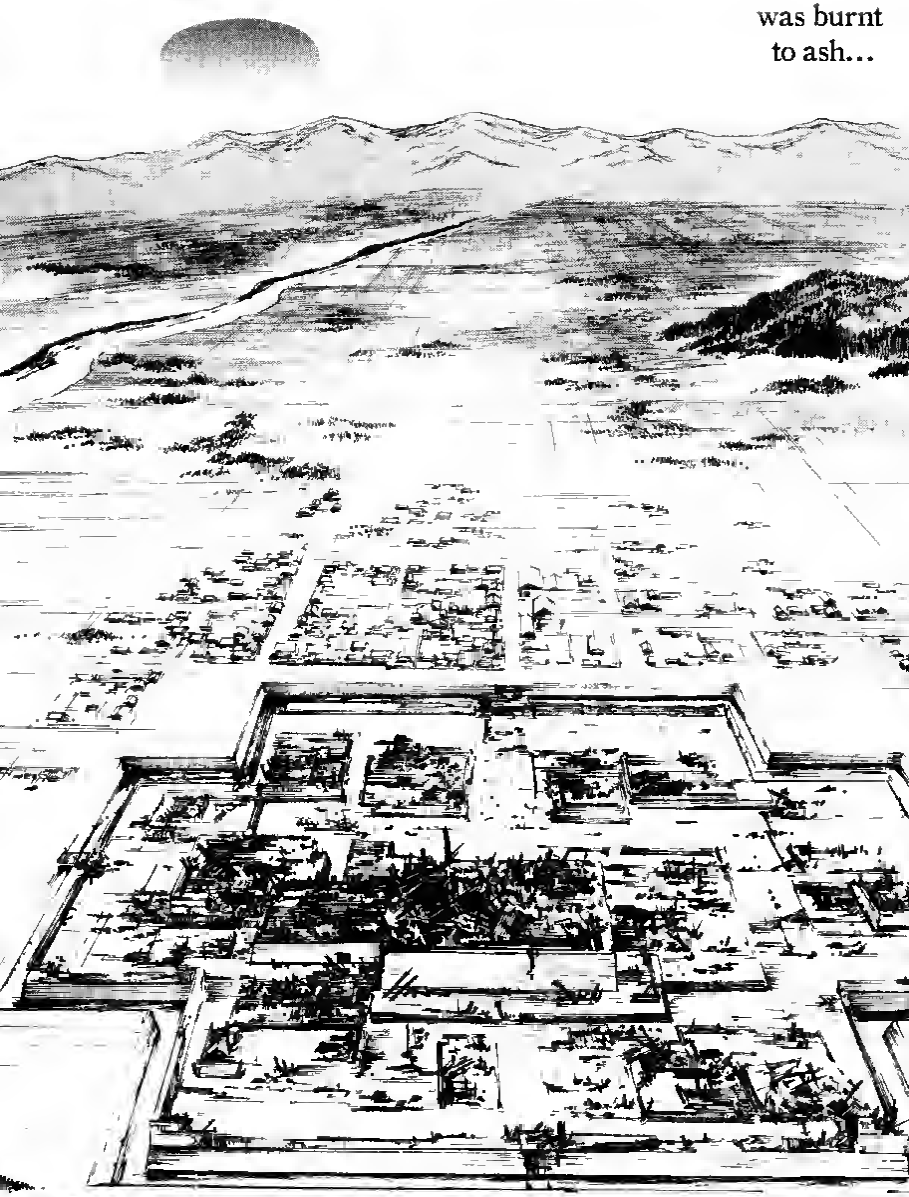
I, SHIBATA KATSUIE, WOULD NEVER CRY IN ANY SORROW!
BUT I WOULD TURN ALL THE FLUIDS IN MY BODY TO TEARS TO SEE YOUR FACE ONCE MORE!
Hah ha...
So those tears are your piss, then?
I AM SO ECSTATIC, IT IS COMING OUT AS TEARS!
AAAA AAAA UGH!!

BROTH-
ER!!
And
join
me...
Then
die...
AT MY
SIDE!!

Kitanosho Castle finally fell to the Hashiba Army's full-fledged assault
On April 24th of Tensho year 11

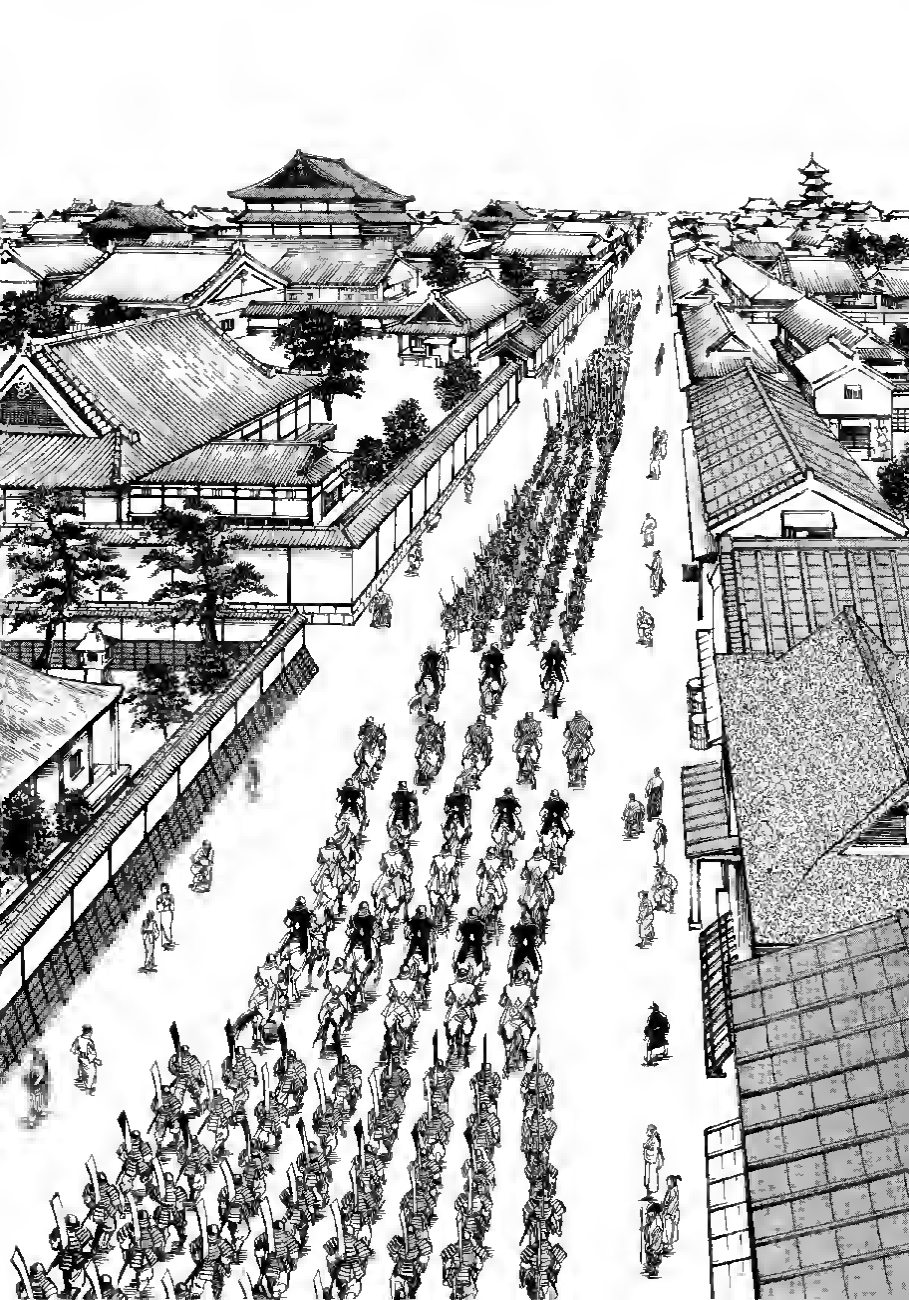
The great seven-year castle of the Shibata, said to be on par with Azuchi Castle...
At 5:00 PM...

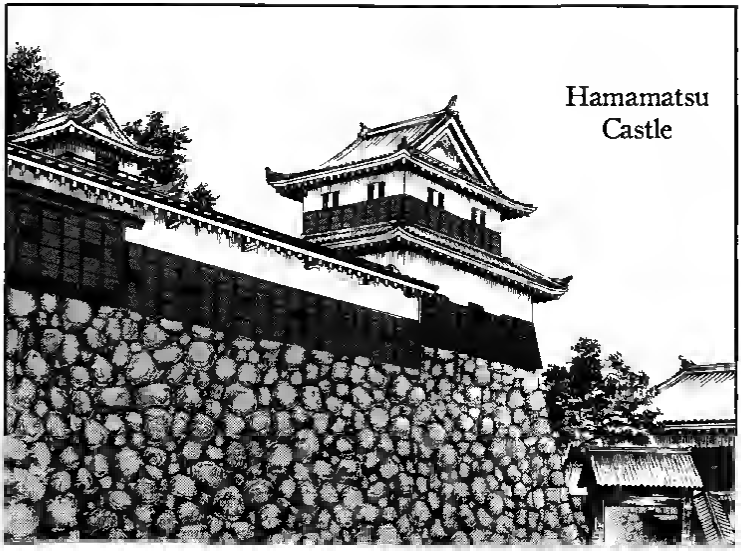
was burnt
to ash...



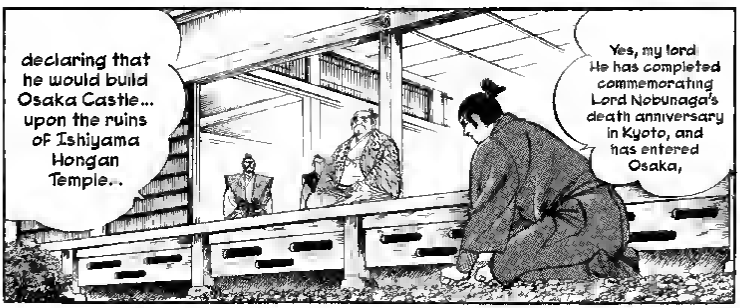
I've made up my mind...

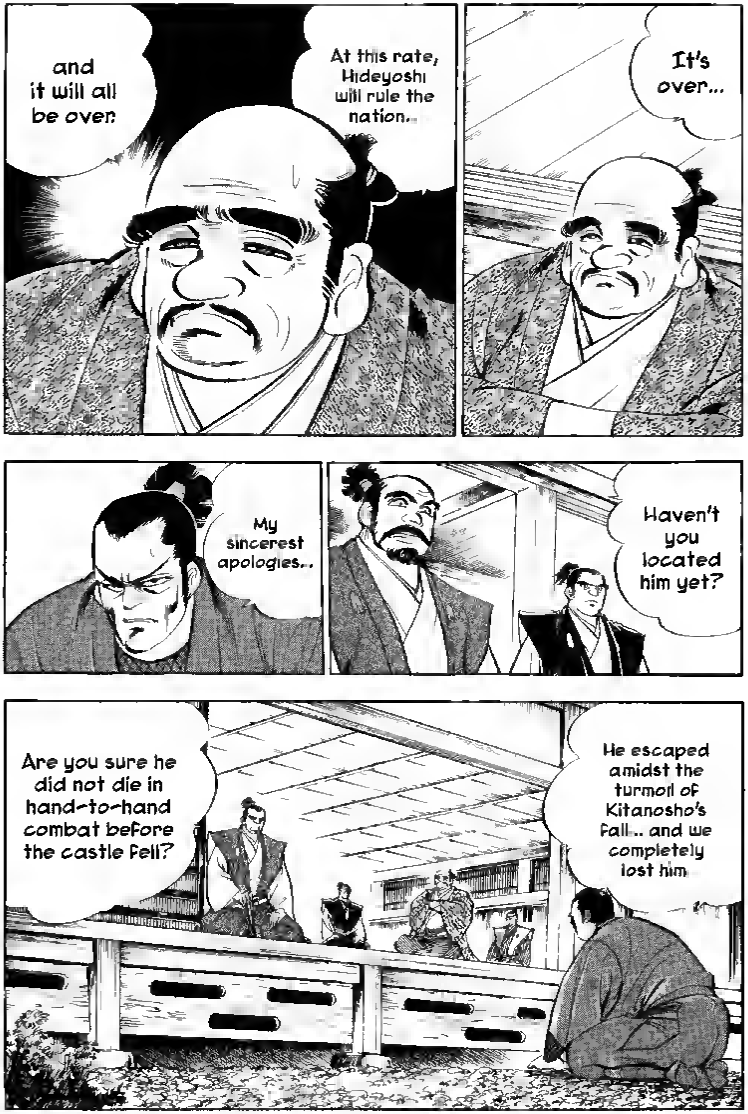
Kyoto ...?
I will march to Kyoto...
Now that our lord has perished,
Have you forgotten? This is the anniversary of our lord's... Lord Oda Nobunaga's death.
I, HASHIBA HIDEYOSHI, AM THE LORD OF THIS LAND!!
IF I DO NOT RULE JAPAN, WHO SHALL?




Hamamatsu
Castle

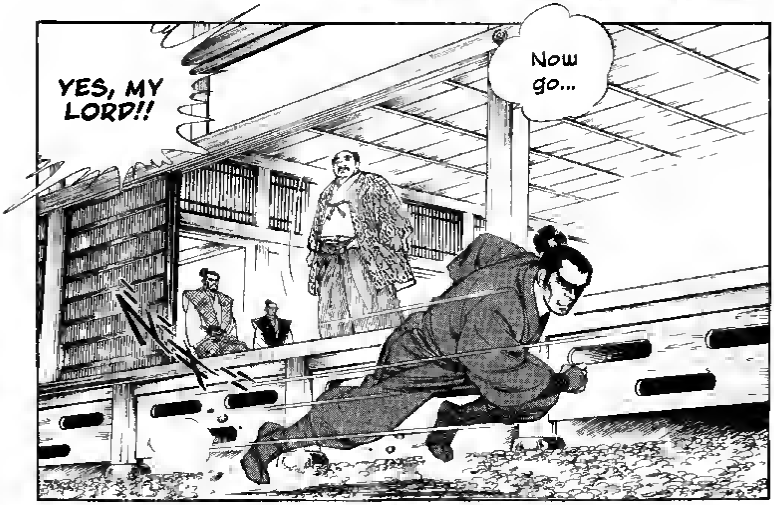
To Osaka...?

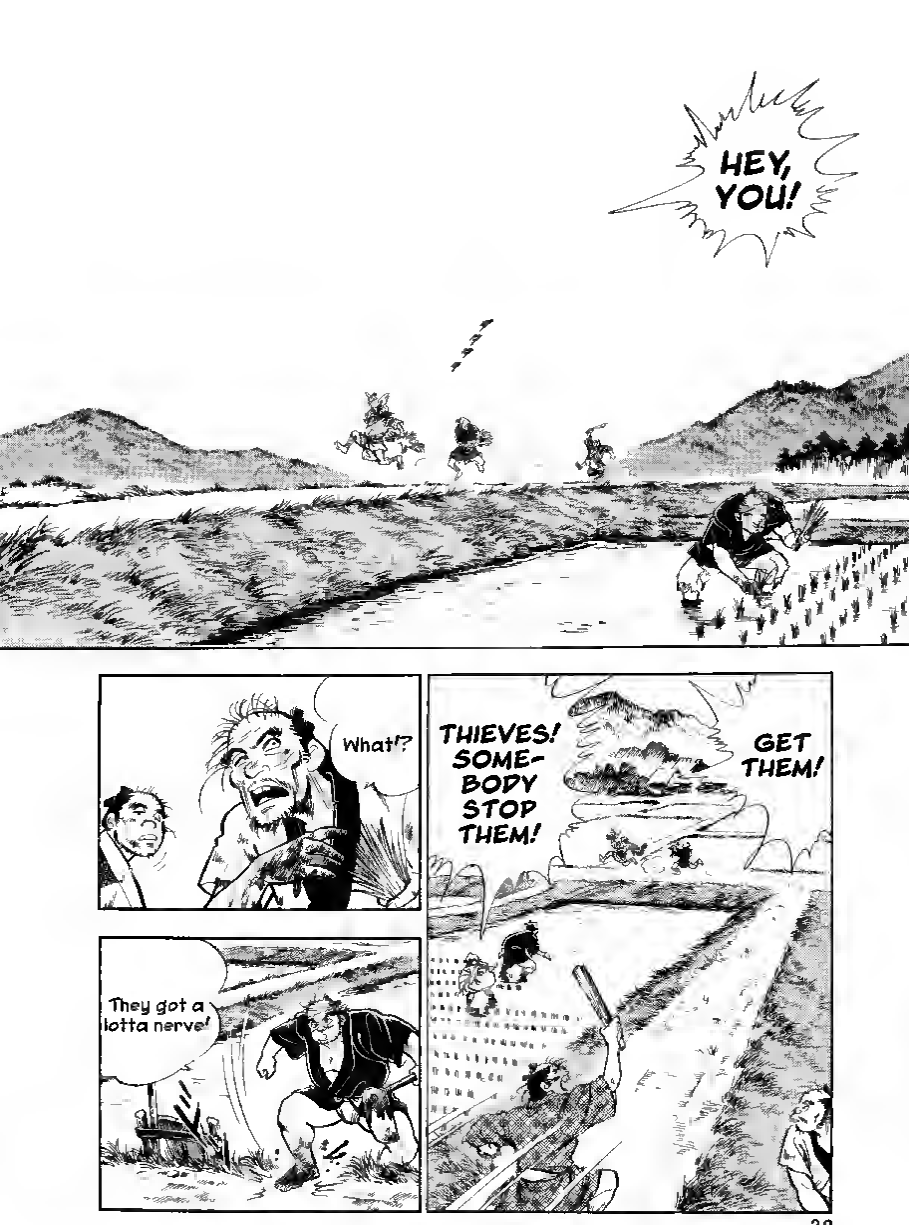

declaring that he would build Osaka Castle... upon the ruins of Ishiyama Hongan Temple...
Yes, my lord. He has completed commemorating Lord Nobunaga's death anniversary in Kyoto, and has entered Osaka,


and it will all be over
At this rate, Hideyoshi will rule the nation...
It's over...
My sincerest apologies...
Haven't you located him yet?
Are you sure he did not die in hand-to-hand combat before the castle fell?
He escaped amidst the turmoil of Kitanosho's fall... and we completely lost him

No, my lord.
...Do you really believe that he would die?
You idiot. He is not dead...

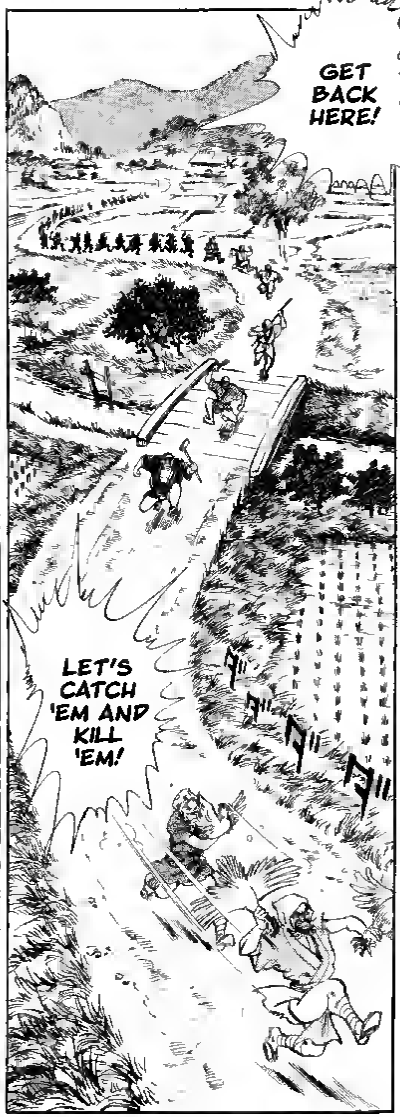
The only way to hinder Hideyoshi's conquest of the nation is to have Oda Nobunaga alive and under me!
You must find him and bring him before me...


YES, MY LORD!!
Now go...


HEY, YOU!
What!?
THIEVES! SOME-BODY STOP THEM!
GET THEM!
They got a lotta nerve!

From now on...?
M-My lord! What are we going to do...

SO DON'T YOU DARE LET GO OF IT!
WE'RE GONNA ROAST THAT BIRD AND EAT IT!


GET BACK HERE!
LET'S CATCH 'EM AND KILL 'EM!

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

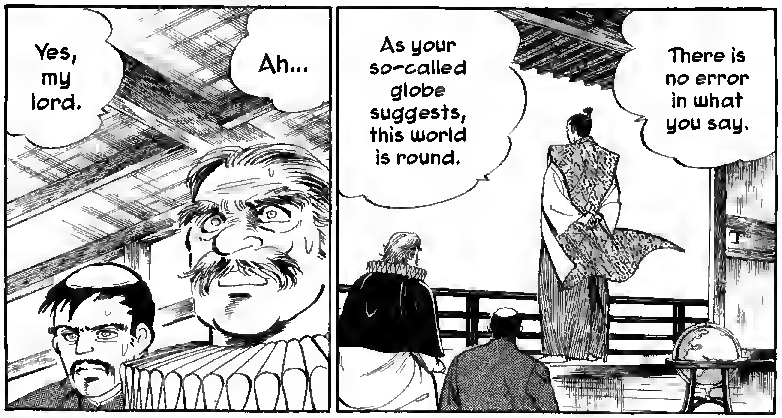
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

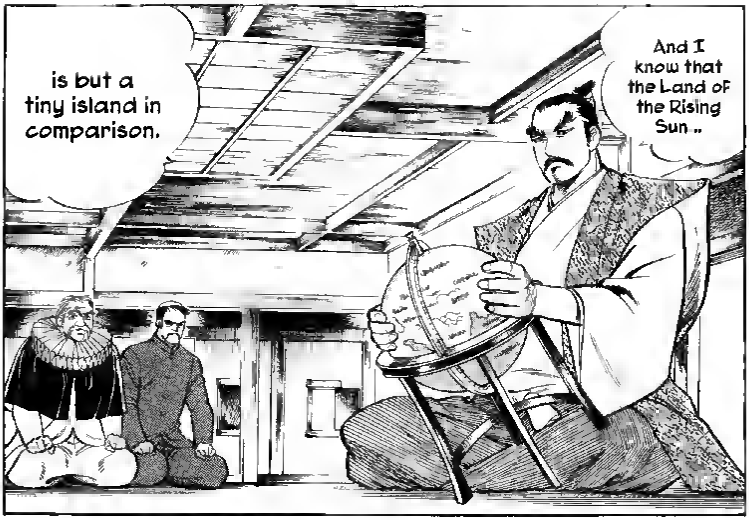
QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

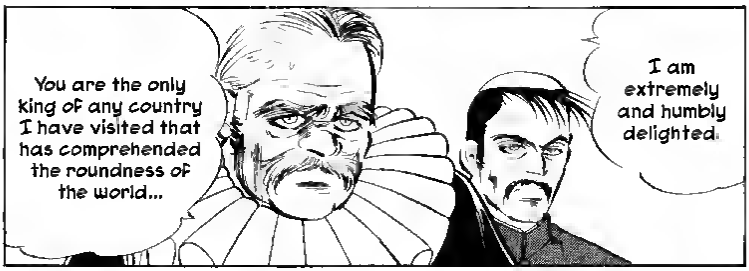
CHAPTER 14

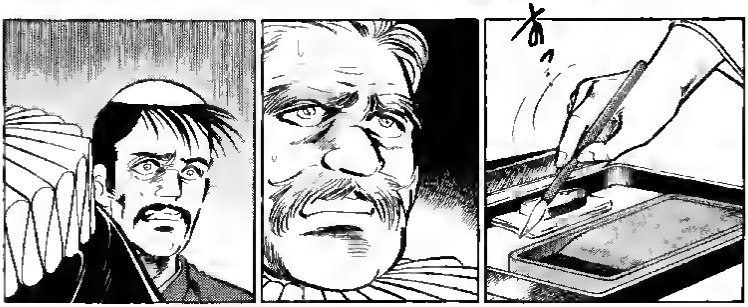
Chapter 15:
The Secret Conversation of Honno-Temple


Yes, my lord.
Ah...
As your so-called globe suggests, this world is round.
There is no error in what you say.

Yes, my lord?
Cabral...


is but a tiny island in comparison.
And I know that the Land of the Rising Sun ..


You are the only king of any country I have visited that has comprehended the roundness of the world...
I am extremely and humbly delighted.



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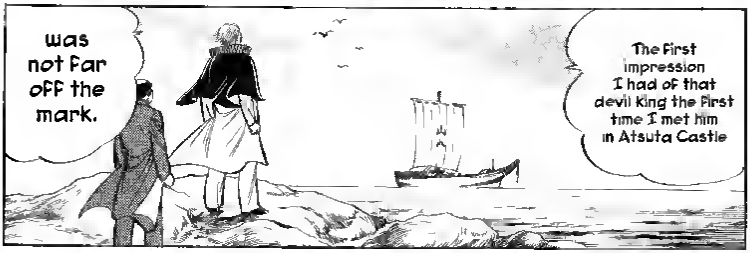
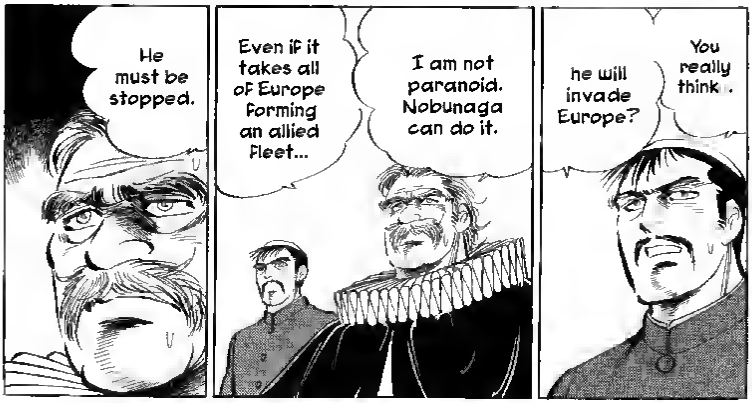
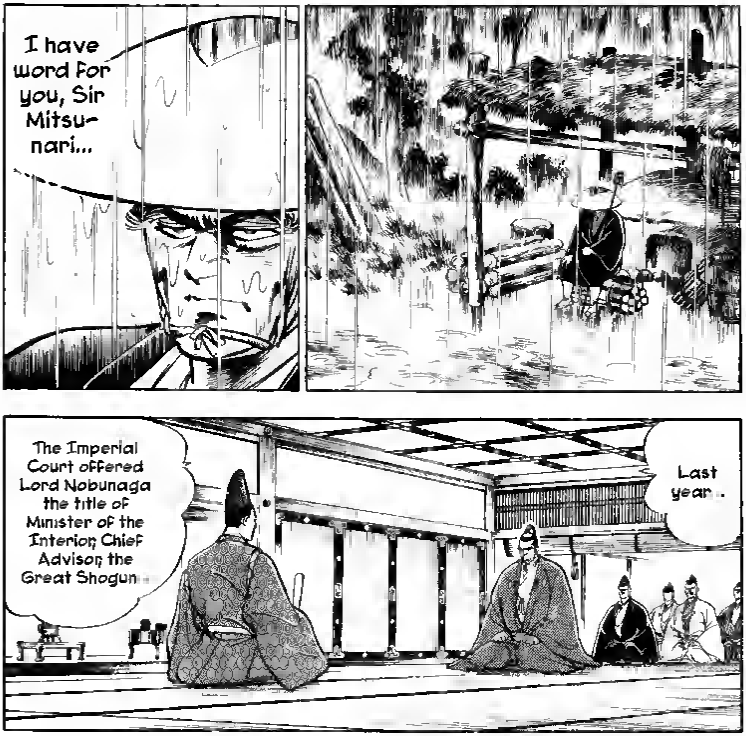
created mankind in the land of Rome...
If you claim this god you believe in
and fought their way all the way to the Far East... Is that not so?
Then the people of Japan have travelled a long way,
I am saying we are the descendants of the strongest people, who have travelled to the far frontiers of the East without once losing!
Huh?
How strong.

If you wish to travel...
I...
and travel along it to return to the place of our birth.
It would be a natural desire to take the route that has been travelled on for millennia.
then I can guide you...
GWAAAH HAHAHA HAAAAA AAAH!!
AND DO SO SOME-TIME IN THE NEXT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS!
Then I will request you... to guide my army of one million!


was not far off the mark.
The first impression I had of that devil king the first time I met him in Atsuta Castle

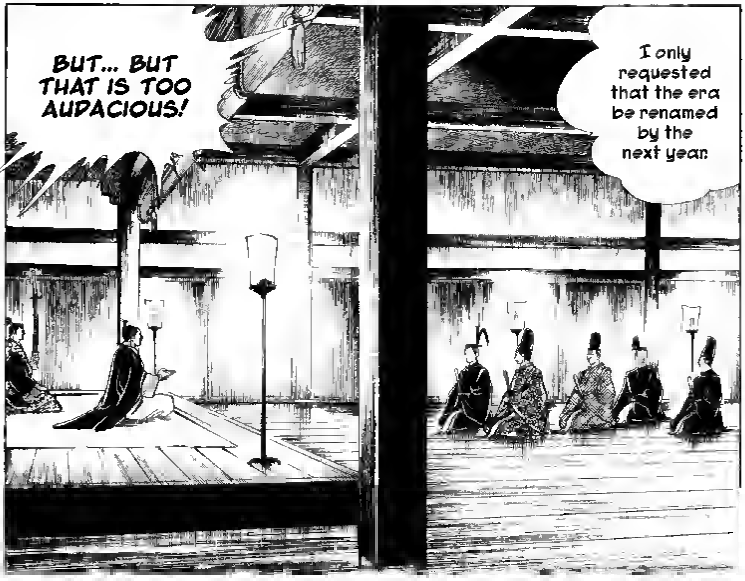

He must be stopped.
Even if it takes all of Europe forming an allied fleet...
I am not paranoid. Nobunaga can do it.
he will invade Europe?
You really think .


I have word for you, Sir Mitsu-nari...
The Imperial Court offered Lord Nobunaga the title of Minister of the Interior, Chief Advisor, the Great Shogun...
Last year...
He even refused to begin an Oda Shogunate.
but Nobunaga refused them all.
and told Nobunaga he could have any rank and title he desired,

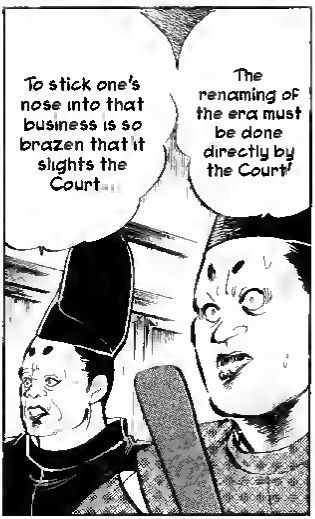
to pass on the throne to Crown Prince Sanehito.
And in response, he gave none other than a threat to His Grace the Emperor...
Given his refusal of the title of Shogun, and his response...
No samurai before him has attempted to threaten the Emperor to abdicate his throne.
to do something so bold as to abolish the Court!
But it is impossible for one such as Oda Nobunaga
I believe that Nobunaga's intentions are clear

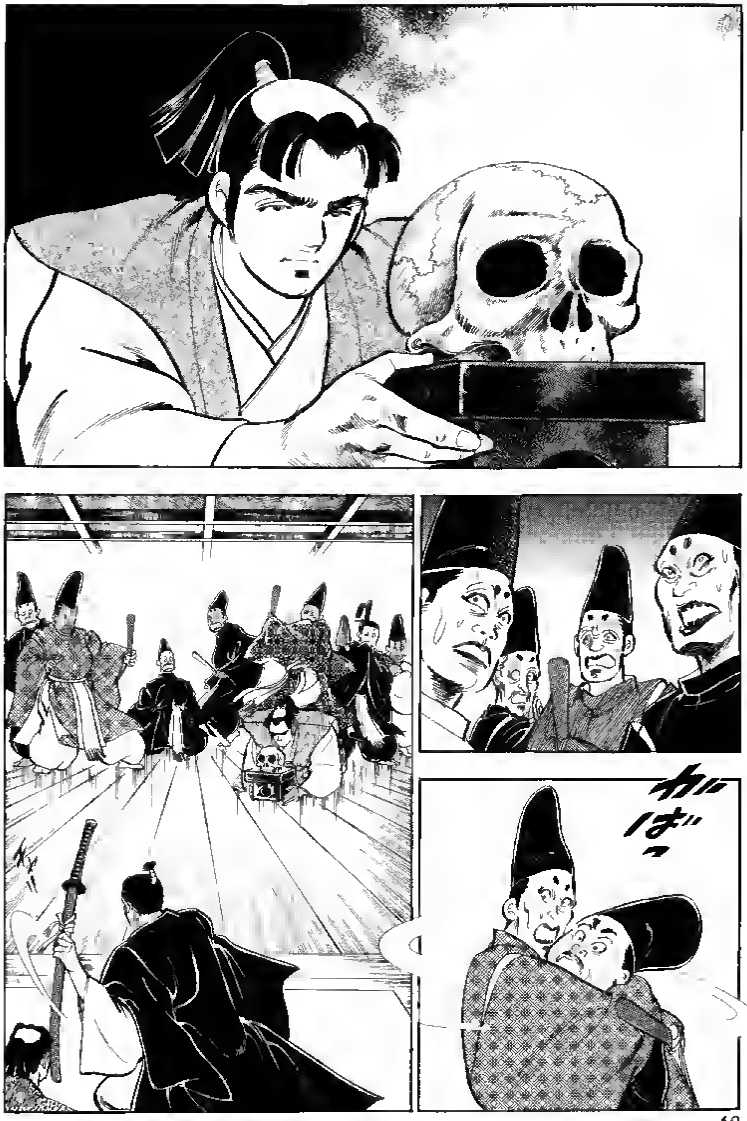
Yes, tomorrow.
Tomorrow...?
All will be revealed tomorrow.
Whether or not it is possible...
I will leave you..
And if he so as much passes gas, they will report it...
He has summoned the principal nobles of the Court to his tea ceremony at Honno Temple tomorrow.
Your samurai lord, or the Emperor!
with the decision of which is more important..

Honno Temple
June 1st, Tensho year 10
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
WHAT!?
My task of military conquest will be complete within the year...
I did not think that my words would merit such surprise


BUT... BUT THAT IS TOO AUDACIOUS!
I only requested that the era be renamed by the next year.

Ran-maru...


To stick one's nose into that business is so brazen that it slights the Court...
The renaming of the era must be done directly by the Court!


カルバ〜

AIIE EEE EE!
GEH- HEEEE EEH!

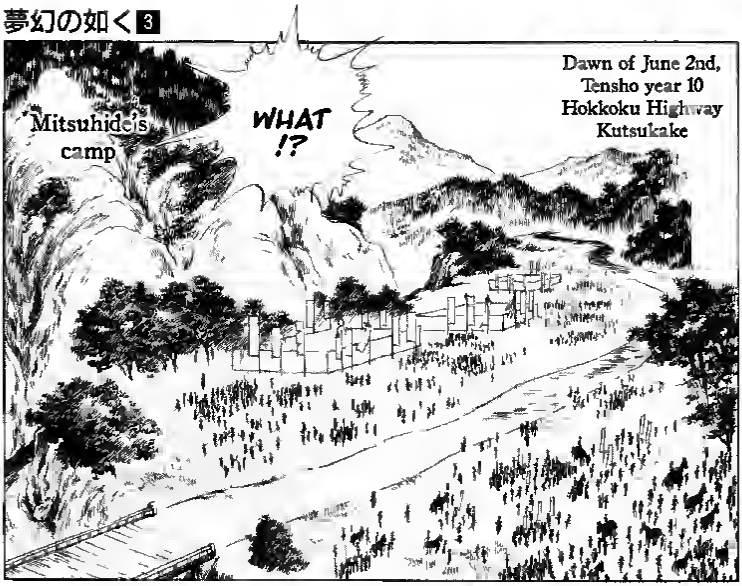
That skull belonged to Shonyo of Hongan Temple.
I detest lies.
The priests of the temples
and you people of Kyoto have surrounded themselves with falsehoods.

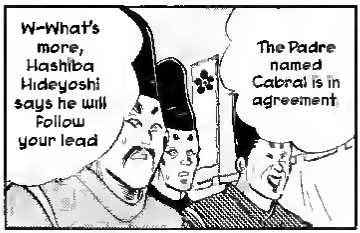
THOSE WORDS ARE TOO OUTRAGEOUS, EVEN FOR YOU!
W...WHAT ARE YOU INSINUATING? Y...YOU SAY WE ARE LIARS?

No daily bread that you have earned yourselves.
You are but extortionists You have no actual power or wealth—
All you have are your filthy flattering mouths.
YOU MERE PARASITES HAVE NO RIGHT TO SPEAK OF WORDS!
WORDS ARE POWER!
Para-sites...?

I would pardon you if you were honest about it... But instead, you seek to deceive the fact that you are being fed by the people you think of as worms.
You depend on your believers and citizens to feed you.

So you build up the fronts of authority and law...
And you spout bullshit to the people to hide the weakness of your position.
Now you are no more than venomous insects who are not even aware of the lies you are spreading!
The world is one of inequality.
AND THE WORLD I WILL CREATE WILL BE ONE OF INEQUALITY!
BUT I REFUSE TO USE LIES TO HIDE THAT INEQUALITY...
SO YOU LICE HAD BETTER RETURN TO YOUR PALACE AND WAIT FOR MY ARRIVAL!!


Mitsuhide's camp
WHAT !?
Dawn of June 2nd, Tensho year 10
Hokkoku Highway
Kutsukake


W-What's more, Hashiba Hideyoshi says he will follow your lead
The Padre named Cabral is in agreement

NNNN-NGH...

You claim he slighted the Court to that extent?
Lord Oda... w...went that far...?

うぉぉぉぉ
OUR ENEMY IS IN HONNO TEMPLE!
MY DECISION IS PURE AND BLAMELESS UNDER THE LAW OF THIS LAND!

You'll soil your garments!

C'mon! Lift your hems up higher!

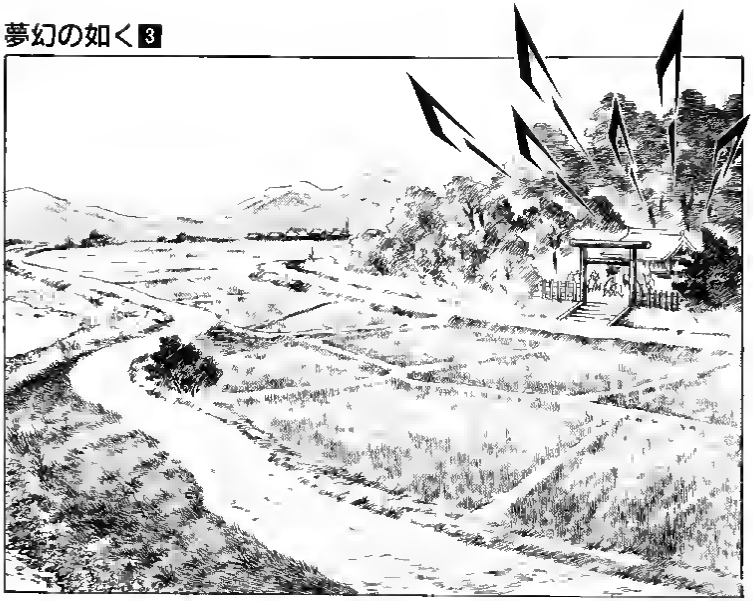
GWA AAAH HAHA HA!

And that'll be more entertaining for those watching!

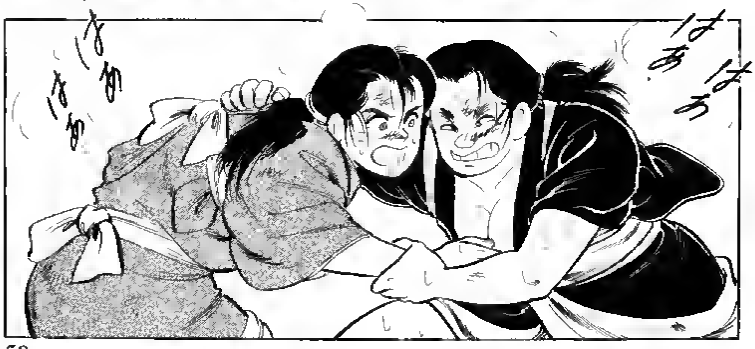
That'll save you the time of washing your garments!

Why not just do this in the nude while you're at it?

NOW GET LOST!
YOU OLD LECHER! YOU'RE INTERRUPTING OUR WORK!
BBH!!
WHO DO YOU THINK THIS MAN IS!?
WAIT! STOP THIS, YOU INSOLENT BROADS!



BRING HER DOWN AND KICK HER ASS!
GO, CHIYO! THAT'S THE WAY!


はあはあ
はあはあ

EEE EEK!
AIIIEEEE EEE!
DAAAA AAAH!
DON'T YOU FIND WOMEN'S WRESTLING SO AMUSING?
GWAH HAHA! DID YOU SEE THAT, RAN-MARU?
Not at all.

GW AH HA HA!
Women may be the stronger sex in a last stand!
The match is already settled, yet still they cling to their opponent and drag one another out of the ring.
This is what happens when women wrestle.
WA AA AH HH H!
Ahhhhh! I'm so happy, I'm getting wet down there!
WA! AH HA HA!
Alright! I bestow the fields of three villages of Ise as a reward to Chiyo, the victor!
They're selfish, vulgar, and greedy, and even a sow is better than them.
Hmph Women are just filthy.

You better not think that just because you have a pretty face, that it gives you the right act like a complete cunt
What are you doing?
Hey, you.
Don't you dare show me that repulsive sight, you insolent cow!
From a place just like this.
After all, you were born
You call your own birthplace repulsive...?
Repul-sive...?

OUT OF THE QUES-TION, YOU COW!!
Fight... You mean wrestle her?
So why don't you fight her?
That woman is right.
Please, don't be so ridiculous!
Now, Pops...
Oh, I don't mind at all.
I will face you.
Alright, then...
Give me something real.
If I win, I don't want that scrap of paper you're giving all the others

AHHHH HHHH!
I'll give you this.
If you lose, it'll be on your head.
It's a national treasure that's said to be worth the entire province of Yamato!
But this is Kunishige, given to you from the Emperor via Kanemi in Kyoto!
I'll be taking this.
Perfect. My kitchen knife was starting to get dull.
Y-You don't mean...

TEAR HIS FUCKING PECKER OFF!
GO, MASA!
Just watch me!

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

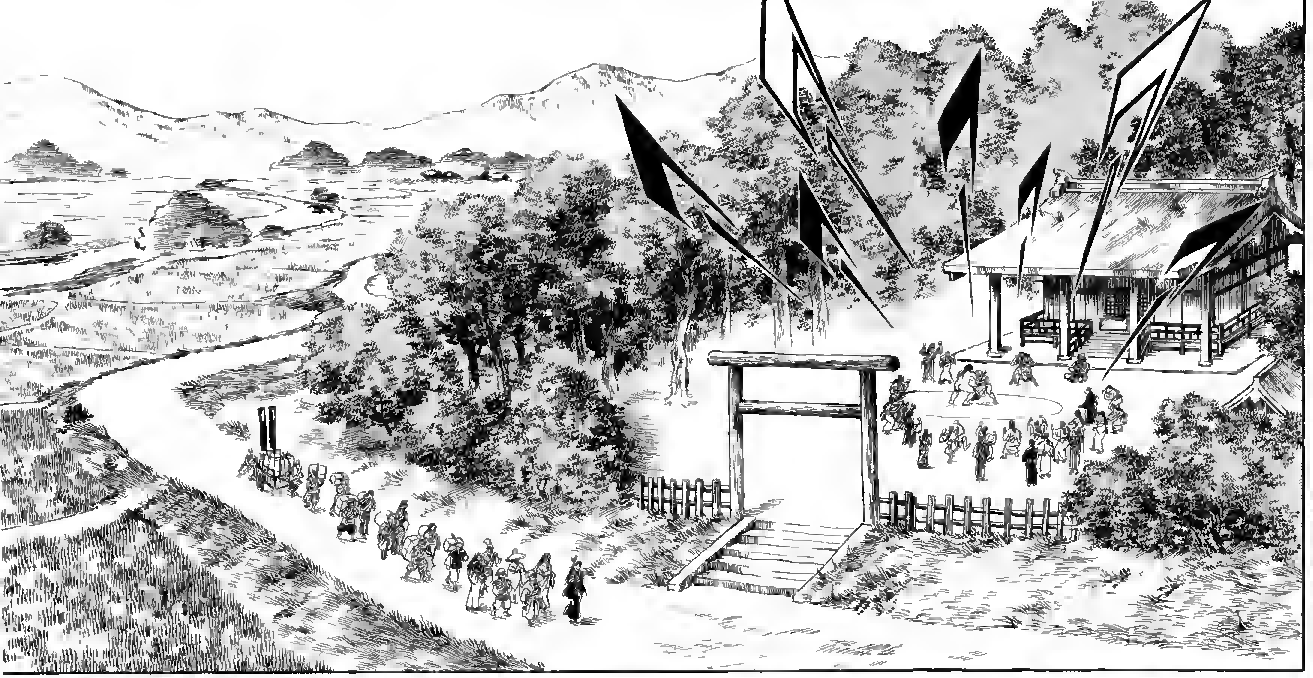
PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

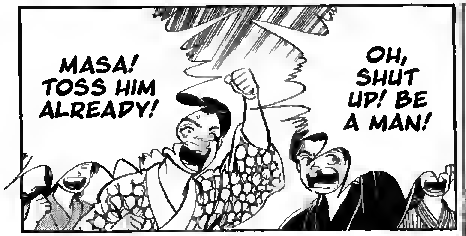
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

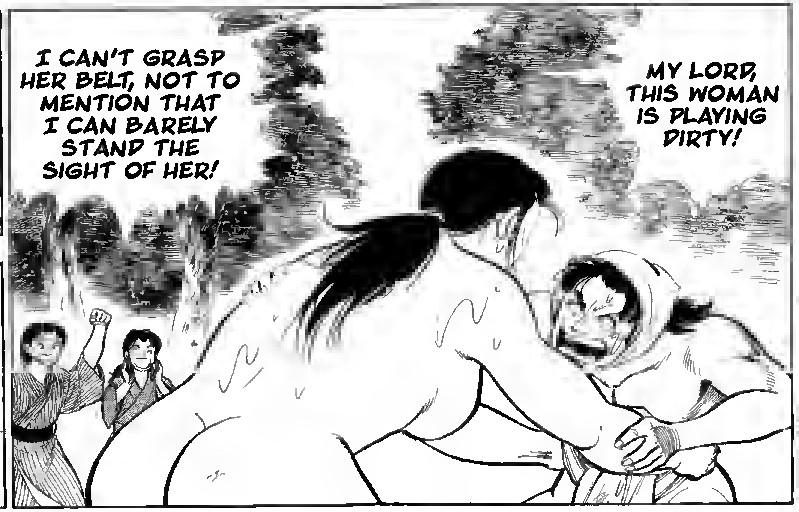
CHAPTER 15

Chapter 16: Izumo-no-Okuni



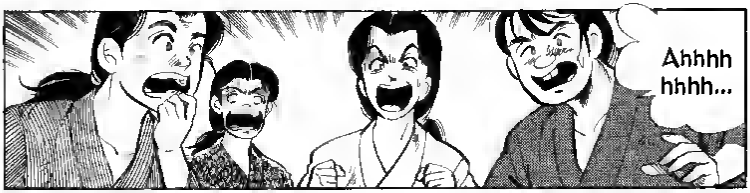

MASA! TOSS HIM ALREADY!
OH, SHUT UP! BE A MAN!

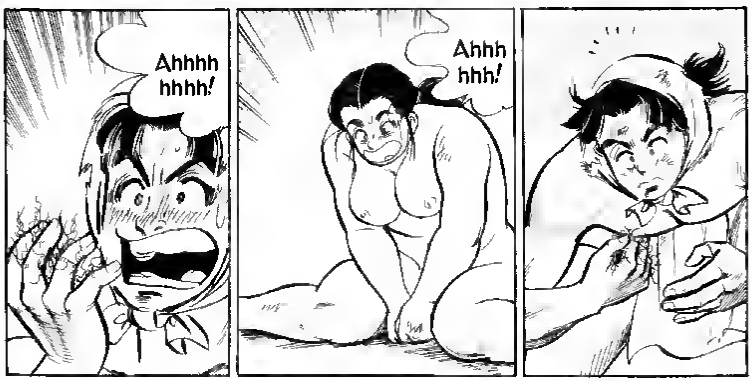
GWA AAAH HAHA HA!
JUST SHUT UP AND TAKE IT!
THE WOMEN ARE RIGHT, RANMARU!


I CAN'T GRASP HER BELT, NOT TO MENTION THAT I CAN BARELY STAND THE SIGHT OF HER!
MY LORD, THIS WOMAN IS PLAYING DIRTY!

URYAAA AAAAHHH HHHHHHH!
JUST A LITTLE MORE! BREAK HIS GODDAMN BACK!
GO, GO, MASA!
HEH HE...
GAAA AAAA AAH!

GOD-DAM-MIT!
I'LL PARADE YOU AROUND IN A DRESS LIKE A WOMAN FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, FAGGOT!
RANMARU! IF YOU DARE LOSE TO THAT WOMAN,
URYA AAAAA HHHHH HHHH!


Ahhhh
hhhh...

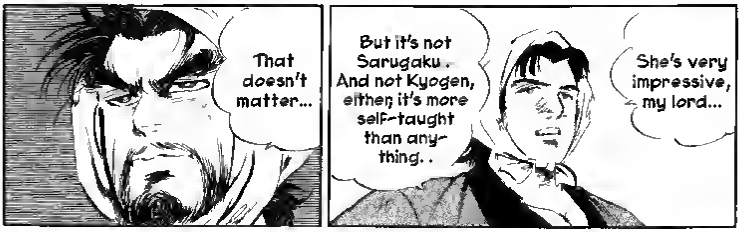

Ahhhh
hhhh!
Ahhh
hhh!

I guess we could say you won by a hair!
You grasped her bush in place of a belt!
HEEH HEE HEE!
Ahhh, my sides!
GWAAAH HAHAHA HAAAAA AAAAH!
A win is a win.

Hey...
YOU CAN DEMAND A REMATCH ALL YOU LIKE, BUT I'M NEVER WRESTLING A WOMAN AGAIN!!
Y...Y...
WHADDYA WANT? STILL GOT A COMPLAINT?
so we came to invite you to it...
There's a festival going on at the nearby shrine grounds,

Apparently this girl that dances "kabuki" or something is a real beauty
That's right! And there's a troupe of travelling performers and they set up a stage!
I see. So that's what that drumming noise was.
Oh, that's it, Oda Nobunaga... is her Father!
And there are rumors that the guy Akechi Mitsuhide killed in Honno Temple You know
HUH?

What do you think Ranmaru?

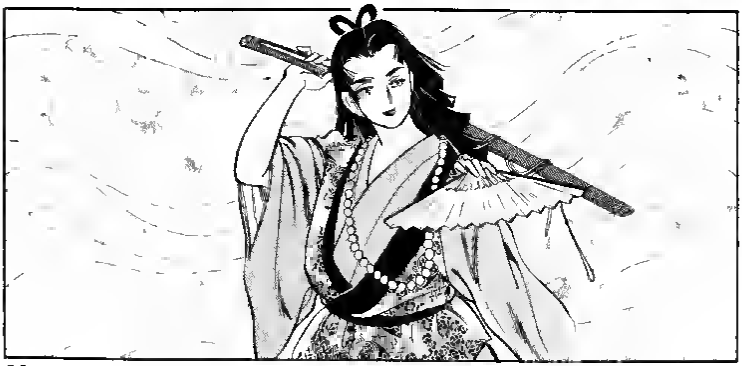

That doesn't matter...
But it's not Sarugaku. And not Kyogen, either; it's more self-taught than anything..
She's very impressive, my lord...

and drawn in the hearts of those ignorant of dancing... And that is impressive...
She's exceeded the bounds of the rules and customs of dance,
Look at the peasants. They're all drawn in to her dancing like a moth to a flame

I have one question...
Ask what you wish...
Why do you not wear a mask?
Hagoromo is not a maskless dance...
I believe that the dancer's expression is an equally important part of the dance. That is why I choose not to don a mask.
I am pursuing a new form of dance.

But now I ask you to behold my new and unique dance.
Precisely...
But Hagoromo is not a new dance.
Then show me this dance.
As you will...
Hey!
Your boss seems pretty cultured!
Of course he is.

Now, this number is called The Pleasure Quarters.
Quick outfit changes are part of my dance.
That was a quick outfit change.



It's very important hair for when men and women have intercourse.
W-
What !?
Do you know why we grow hair down there?
We've already grappled in the nude.
I won't take no for an answer.
Come with me.
I wanna see if it'd be harder without it.

The people have been stimulated by your sensual dance, and have all vanished into the woods..
And it has been communicated..
what people harbor in their hearts.
The purpose of my dance is to strongly communicate

I saw you on the river bed earlier today.
so this is the first time I have performed it in public.
I have always danced that dance alone, and never shown anyone,
And I felt...
For the first time in my life, I felt the sweet yet sorrow heart of a maiden...
I don't know why, but my heart was suddenly shaken.

DON'T COME IN HERE!!
PLEASE, STOP!
Okuni, I presume...

I under-stand...
My lord wishes to witness your dance in Mitsukuri Castle. Now gather your things and accompany us.
We are retainers of Minoura.
My late mother...
Yes.
Your name is Okuni?
and I have taken on her name.
was Izumo-no-Okuni,

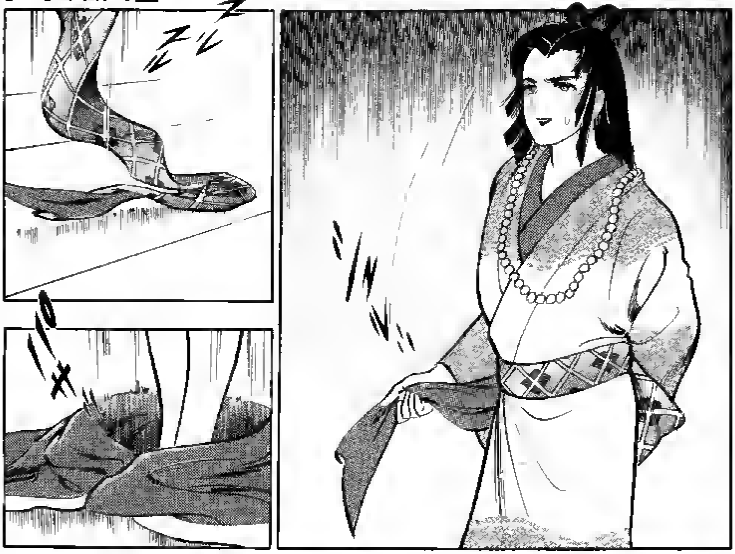
So, you are Okuni...
I am the lord of Mitsukuri. Draw near me.
I am pleased to see you.
I am Izumo-no-Okuni.

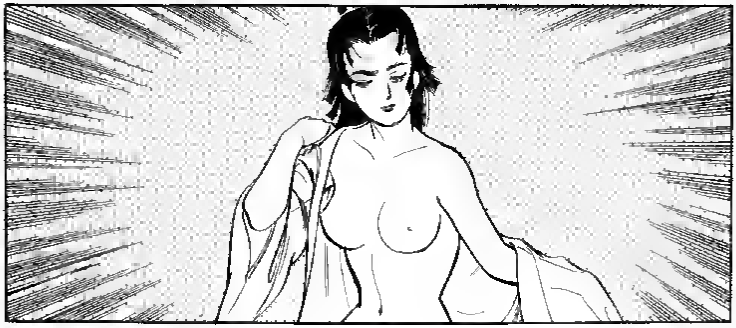
How amusing...
Hehhe.. You're sure a strong-willed woman.
With all due respect... I have come here under the impression that you wished to see my dance.
May I ask you to pour me a drink...?
Go to him, Okuni...
You must not defy him!

Here.
Your cup...
Not bad...
Your breast swells just enough to fit my hand!
HEEH HEE HEE!

Oh, you lechers!
We want to see this woman's dance First!
GYA HA HA!
WAH HA HA!
My lord, can we ask you to save that For later?
The same goes For you!
The dance you've thought up!
Fetch this woman her dancing clothes!
Kosuke!
YES, MY LORD!
GY AA AH HA HA ...
WAAAA AAAH HAHA HAH HA...

GA HA HA!
WA AH HA HA!
We have heard how sensual your dance is, so this will take it to another level!
This special garment was my lord's idea!
OUR WINE'S GETTING COLD!
MAKE IT QUICK, WOMAN...





HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? THIS IS MITSUKURI CASTLE!
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A PEASANT! LEAVE HERE AT ONCE!
Ohhh?

WHAT !?
I thought it was a charcoal hut
This is a castle, you say..
OPEN THE GATES!

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

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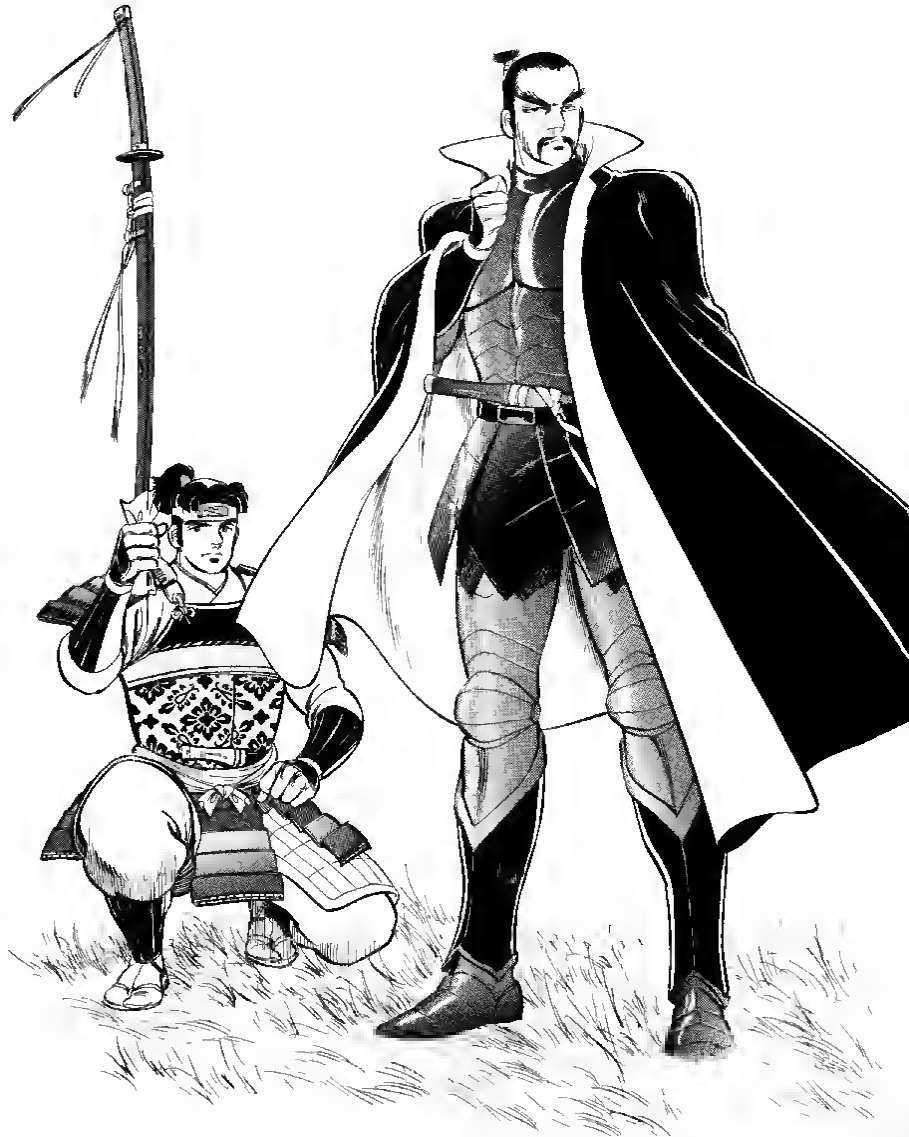
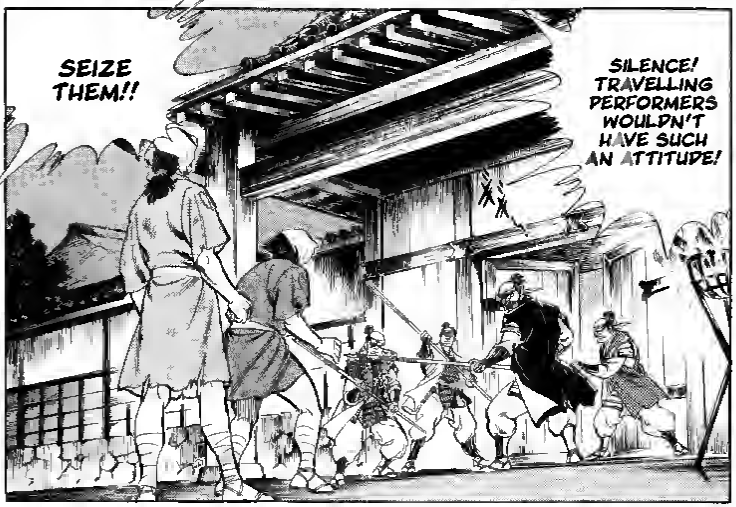
QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 16

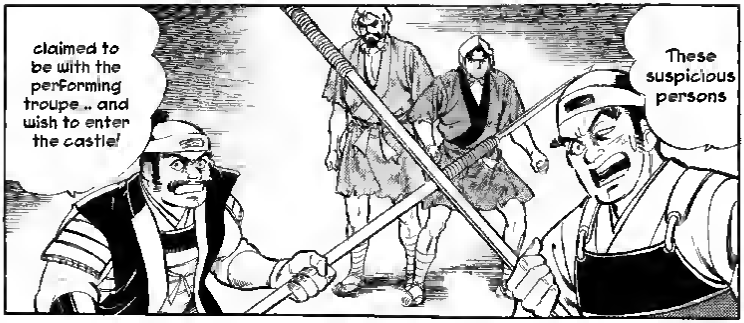
Chapter 17: The Dance of Okuni



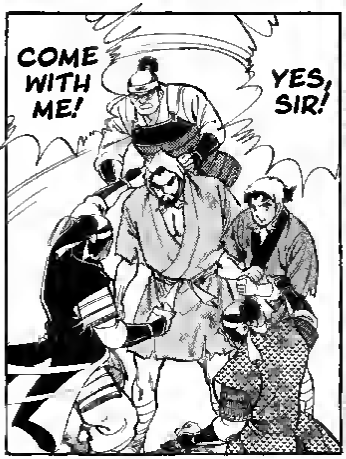
Why don't you just open the gates...
of this pitiful charcoal hut?
We're not anyone suspicious!
We're with the travelling performers that have been summoned today!
IDENTIFY YOURSELVES!
YOU'RE SOME SUSPICIOUS FOLK ALRIGHT!


SEIZE THEM!!
SILENCE! TRAVELLING PERFORMERS WOULDN'T HAVE SUCH AN ATTITUDE!

Sir Sudo!
Ah...
What's all the racket ...?


These suspicious persons
claimed to be with the performing troupe... and wish to enter the castle!

Seize them and throw them in the dungeon.


COME WITH ME!
YES, SIR!

What!?
Your work was most formidable in the siege of Asakura.
Sudo Goro-zaemon, I presume?
You must've used an upset stomach...
But I take it you are struggling under your new lord.
as an excuse to leave your seat...

A-
AHHH...
UH...
You must have been grieved by Masaoki's death...
I sympathize with you...
UNHAND HIM AT ONCE!!
UNHAND HIM, YOU FOOLS...
I'll be coming through, Gorozaemon.
S...Sir Sudo...?

GWAAA AHHA HA...?
WELL? THERE CAN BE NO GREATER GARMENT THAN THAT!
YES, MY LORD!
NOW DANCE YOUR PLEASURE QUARTERS DANCE IN THAT GARMENT!
I HAVE HEARD THAT YOUR DANCE IS ALREADY SENSUAL ENOUGH!

It's Nishikigi. Start dancing.

STOP IT!!
THAT DANCE IS NOT FIT FOR DRINK-ING!
ENO-UGH!!
AND WHO ARE YOU?
yeeee-aaarr-ssssss...
Fiiiiifty...

the whole of creation...
Compared to...
Are the life of maaaaaan...
a dream, an illusion...
It is but...

are destined to one day die...
All that have lived...
SLAY THAT LOW-BORN AT ONCE!!
SLAY HIM!

STAND DOWN!!
YOU ARE THE LOW-BORN!
Or your head won't be the only one rolling!!
You need to know your place, fool..
Goro-zaemon..

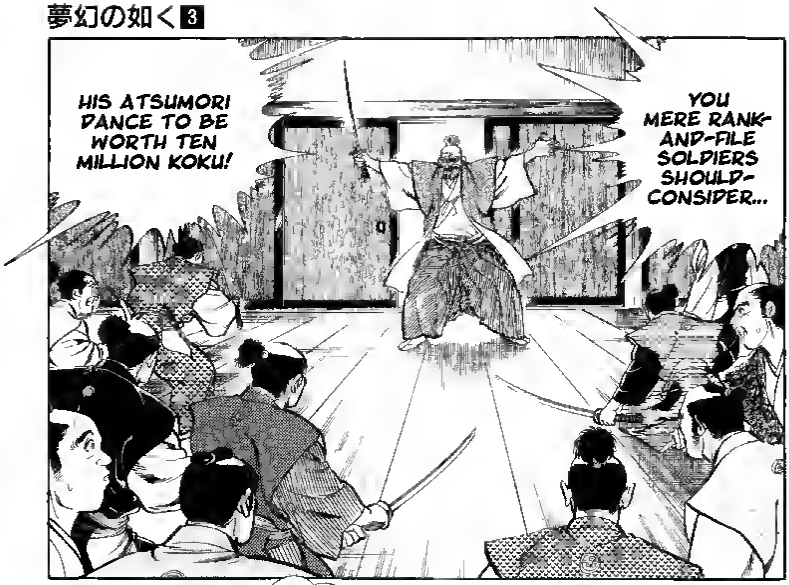
You will have your fill of dreams.
then abandon this fool and serve Kuki Yoshitaka of Toba Castle.
Sudo Goroza-emon...
What !?
If you wish to be in the service once more,
AHHA HAHAHA HAAAAH!

THEY HAVE DISHONORED ME! THEY MUST NOT LEAVE THIS CASTLE ALIVE!
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!!
O...Old man...
THEN THIS SWORD THAT I HAVE BRANDISHED IN BATTLE WILL TAKE YOUR HEAD CLEAN OFF!
JUST YOU DARE TAKE A STEP!
I stood by your predecessor Lord Masaoki's side,
and fought in battle after battle...

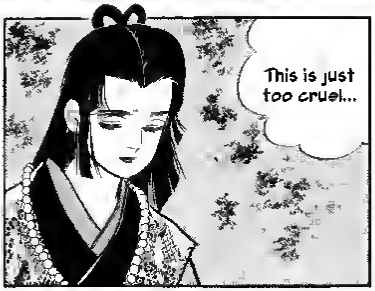
I had the honor of witnessing his dance of Atsumori with my own eyes... That was my most passionate memory!
And I was summoned to the main camp for my merits in the siege of Asakura...

your predecessor earned his castle...
And due to those merits,

I AM SURE YOU HAVE NOT HEARD THE END OF THAT!


HIS ATSUMORI DANCE TO BE WORTH TEN MILLION KOKU!
YOU MERE RANK-AND-FILE SOLDIERS SHOULD-CONSIDER...
you getting so worked up over this...?
W-Why are
W...What the hell, old man?
BY YOUR PARDON!!
AS OF TODAY, I, SUDO GORO-ZAEMON, AM WITH-DRAWING MY SER-VICE!

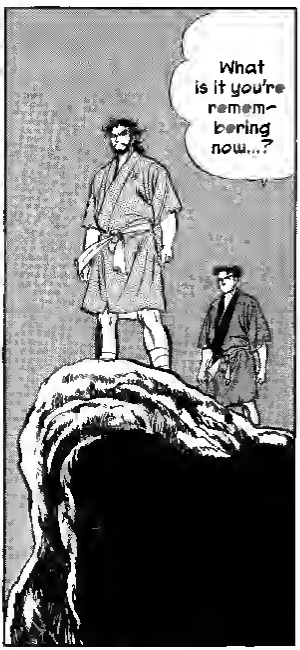
like I could give up dancing...
This was the first time I have ever felt


This is just too cruel...

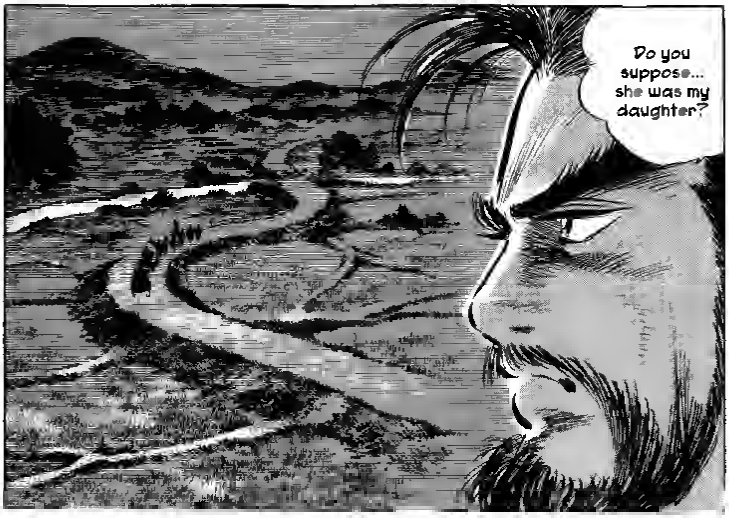
They're waiting for you...
At least show me your mercy once...
No... If I cannot be with you, at least...
Okuni...

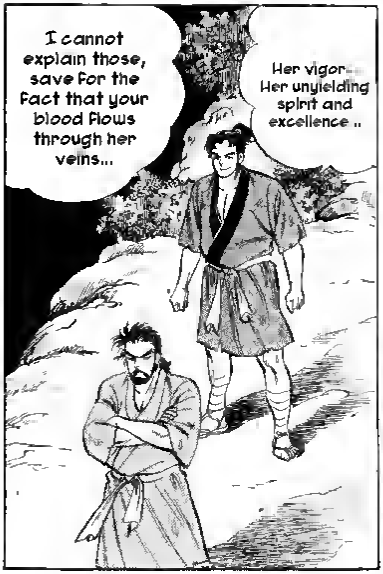
A woman who creates a new form of dance
is truly unique.
There are enough girls in this world... who settle down with the man they love...
But...
and give birth to a child...

When I was in Gifu Castle,
I fell for the dance of a travelling performer that had visited the castle town.

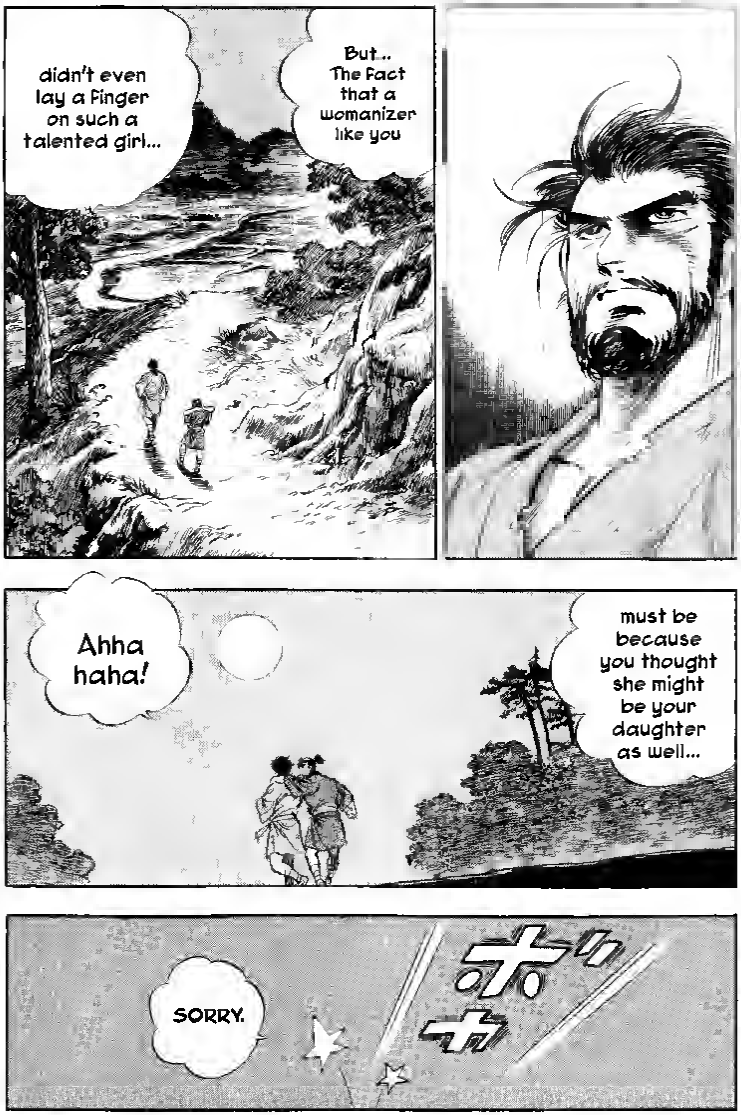

What is it you're remembering now...?

She entertained me for the night— And her name was Izumo-no-Okuni
That girl named her as her mother.

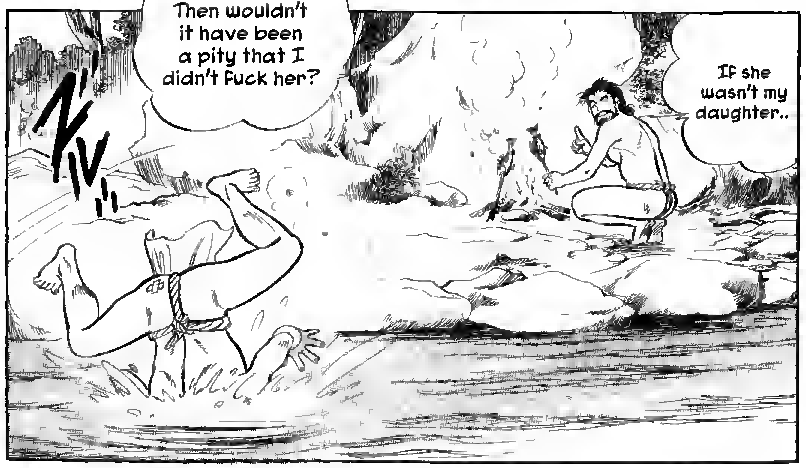

Do you suppose... she was my daughter?


I cannot explain those, save for the fact that your blood flows through her veins...
Her vigor... Her unyielding spirit and excellence ..

Yet she danced a man's dance so well that her seductive womanly body could not even be sensed
The Nishikigi dance she performed at Mitsukuri Castle was done in the sheerest of garments


didn't even lay a finger on such a talented girl...
But... The fact that a womanizer like you
must be because you thought she might be your daughter as well...
Ahha haha!
SORRY.
ポン
ポン

OHHHH! IT'S GOING THAT WAY! THAT WAY!
DON'T LET IT GET AWAY!
GO AFTER IT!
YOU FOOL!!


Then wouldn't it have been a pity that I didn't fuck her?
If she wasn't my daughter..

Hey, Ranmaru.

Yes, my lord?

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

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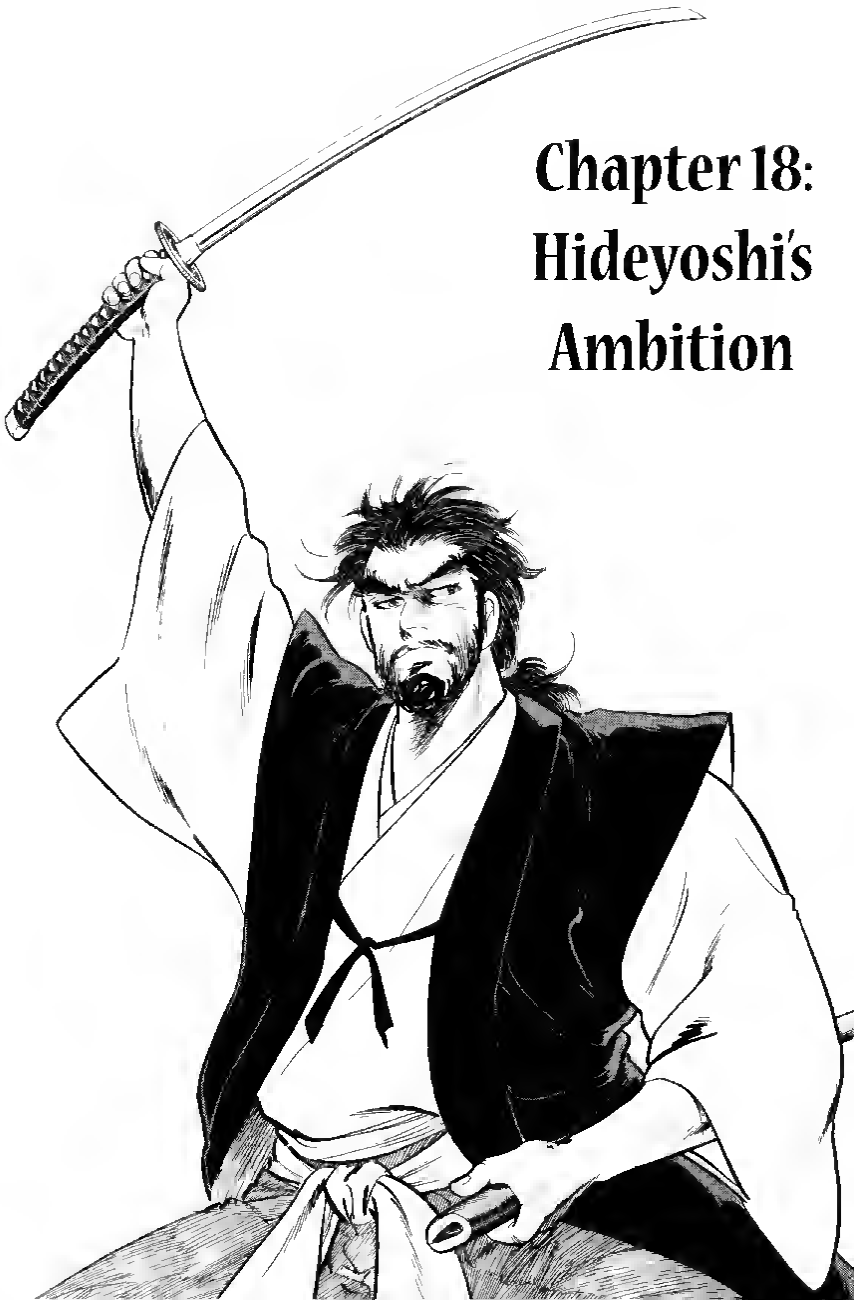
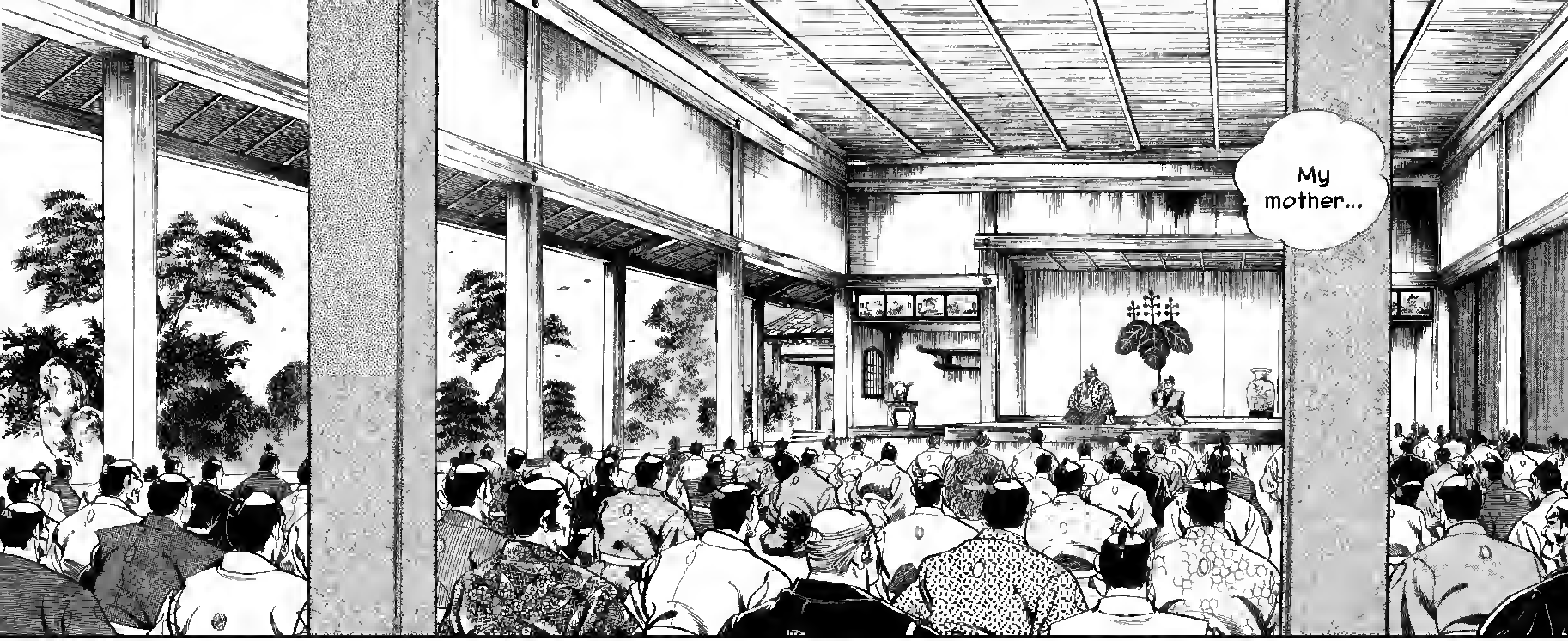
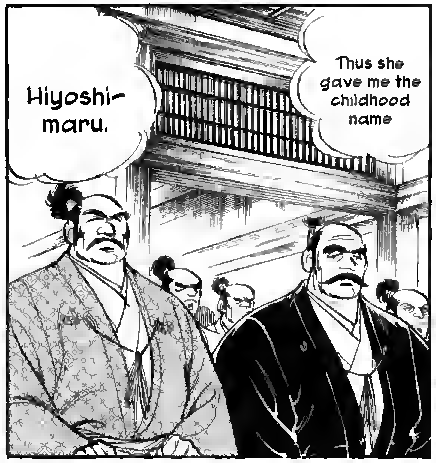
CHAPTER 17

Chapter 18: Hideyoshi's Ambition




My mother...

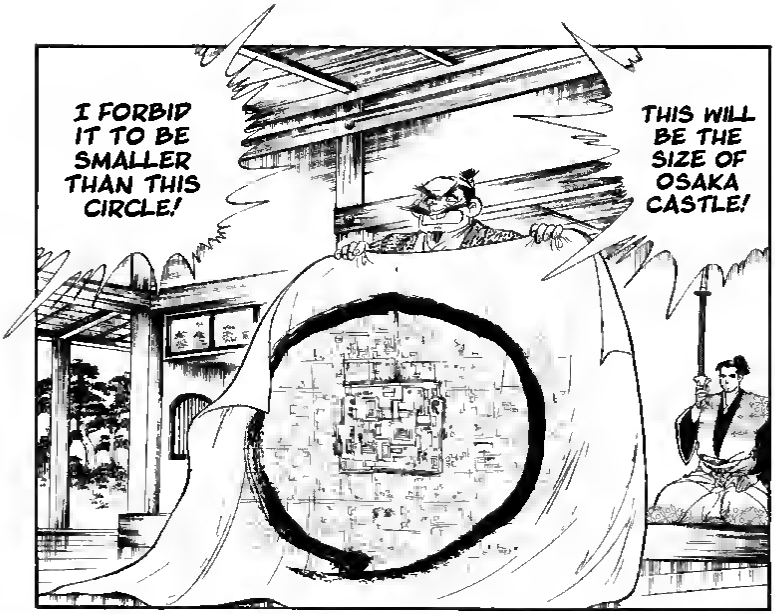
And I will build a castle fit for me.
I am the one true sun that shines in the sky.


Hiyoshi-maru.
Thus she gave me the childhood name

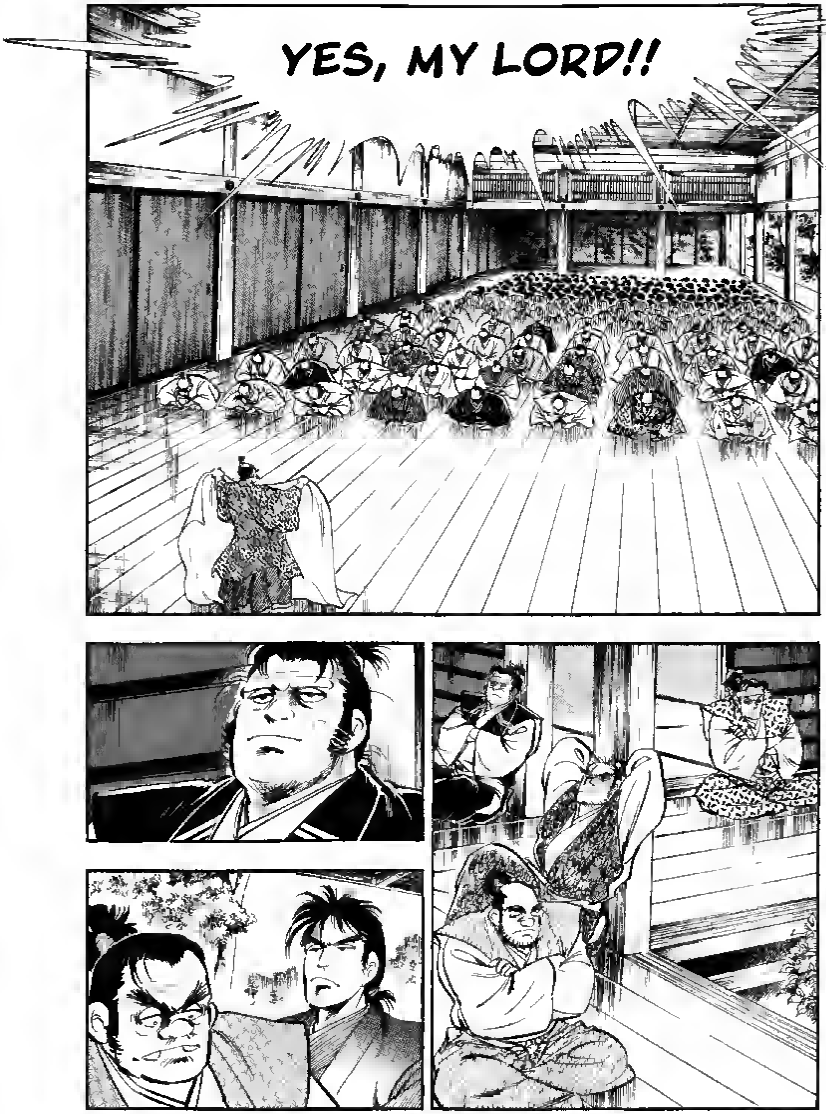
and so she conceived me...
had a dream that the sun flew into her womb...

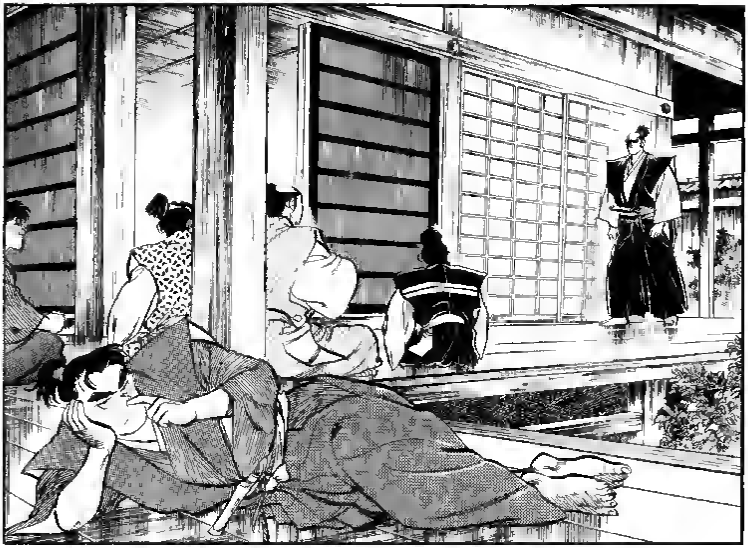
MASHITA NAGAMORI!!
YES, MY LORD!
ASANO NAGAMASA...
I appoint you two as magistrates of construction
YES, MY LORD!
Invest all the gold and silver mined from Ikuno in Tajima into this project.
YES, MY LORD!!
ISHIDA MITSUNARI!

BRING ME A BLUE-PRINT OF ISHIYAMA HONGAN TEMPLE!
I order Matsui Yukan, governor of Sakai, and Sen-no-Soeki
to gather up all the treasures of trade in Sakai and bring them to Osaka.
This is the size...
at this.
Take a look
See this, and know the extent of my magnanimity...
オラ——・
that I desire...


I FORBID IT TO BE SMALLER THAN THIS CIRCLE!
THIS WILL BE THE SIZE OF OSAKA CASTLE!

MUST EXPEND ANY AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO COOPERATE WITH THE BUILDING EFFORT!!
ALL THE LORDS OF THE TWENTY-PROVINCES UNDER MY COMMAND


YES, MY LORD!!



whose stipends have been increased from three thousand to five thousand koku for their merits in Shizugatake?
What happened to the group of seven.

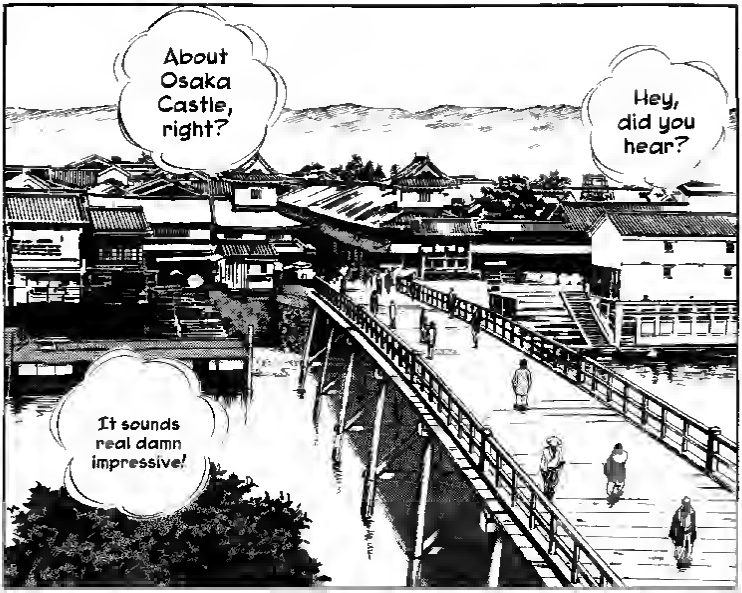
You seem listless.
What's the matter with you?

Sir Kuroda...

Those merits were all thanks to Sir Tenchi Yumenosuke.
Yeah! Where did he end up going?
We... were remember-ing him,
and we wish to see him again.

We wish to serve under him again...

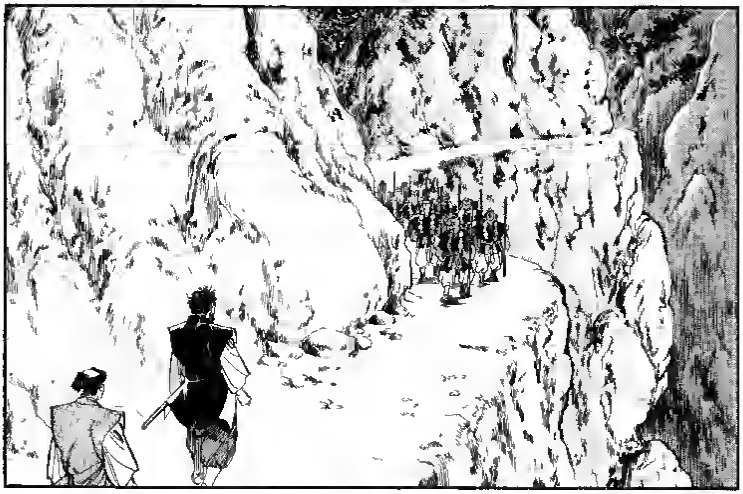
We have located Tenchi Yumeno-suke
at Happu Pass in Omi.
My lord..
Slay him...
What must we do...?
Use whatever means necessary...
to slay him!

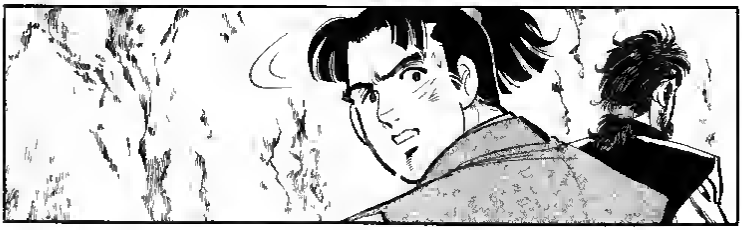

About Osaka Castle, right?
Hey, did you hear?
It sounds real damn impressive!

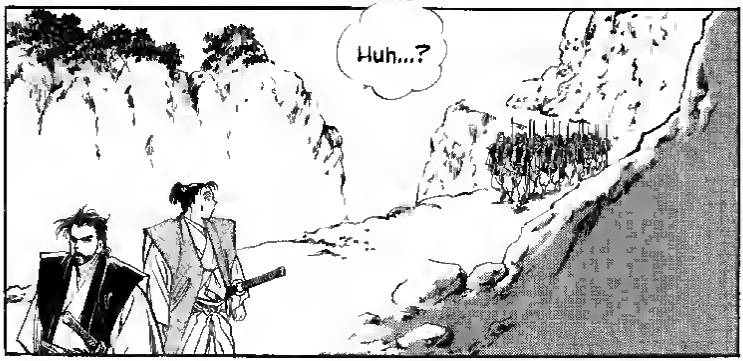
Whoaa! I'd like to see that before I die!
I hear it's gonna be far greater than even Azuchi Castle, the so-called greatest castle built by Lord Nobunaga!

he'll have earned the title of Minister of the Right, or even Chief Adviser!
And I hear that by the time it's finished,

That monkey...
can make more boasts than I ever could...
Hehe ..
My lord...
I think we should inform him
that you were behind Lord Hideyoshi's conquest...
What is it?
I have a request for you.
If we leave things as they are, Lord Nobukatsu is sure to raise an army against Lord Hideyoshi.






Huh...?

Huh...?
They're ninjas

MY LORD!
AND RUN FOR IT!
RANMARU! FOCUS ONLY ON THE ONES IN FRONT!

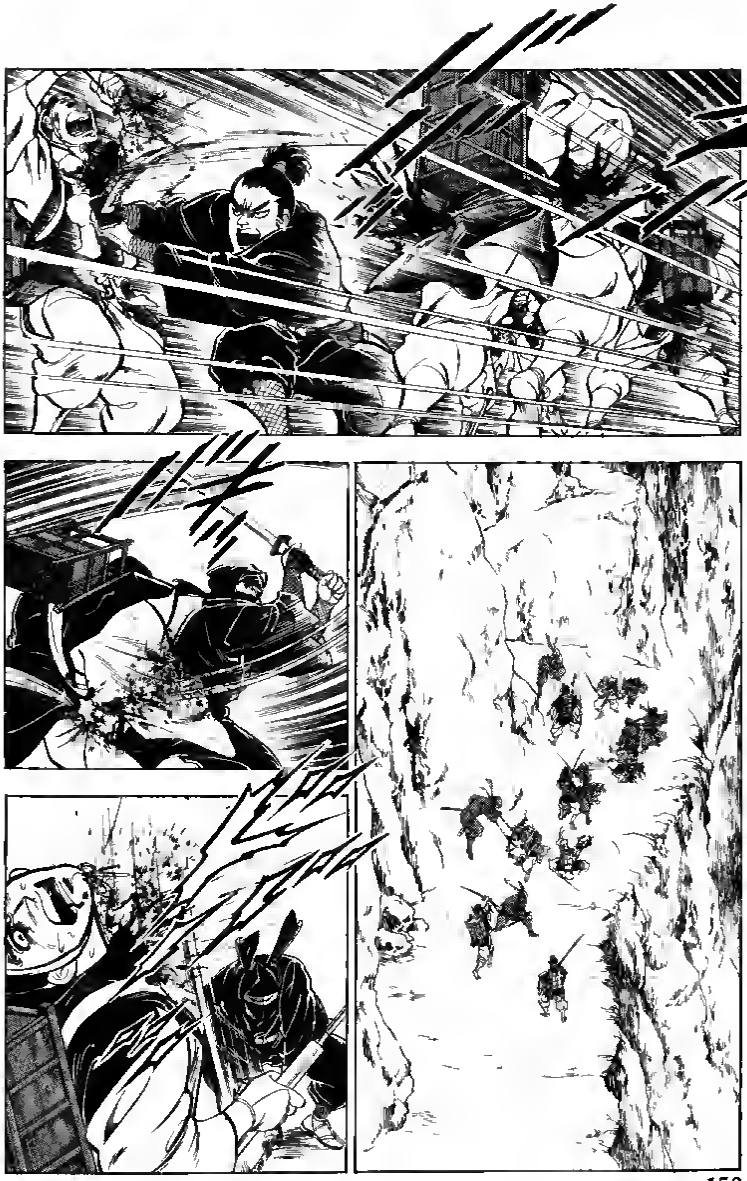
NUUO
OOUU
UGGH
HH!

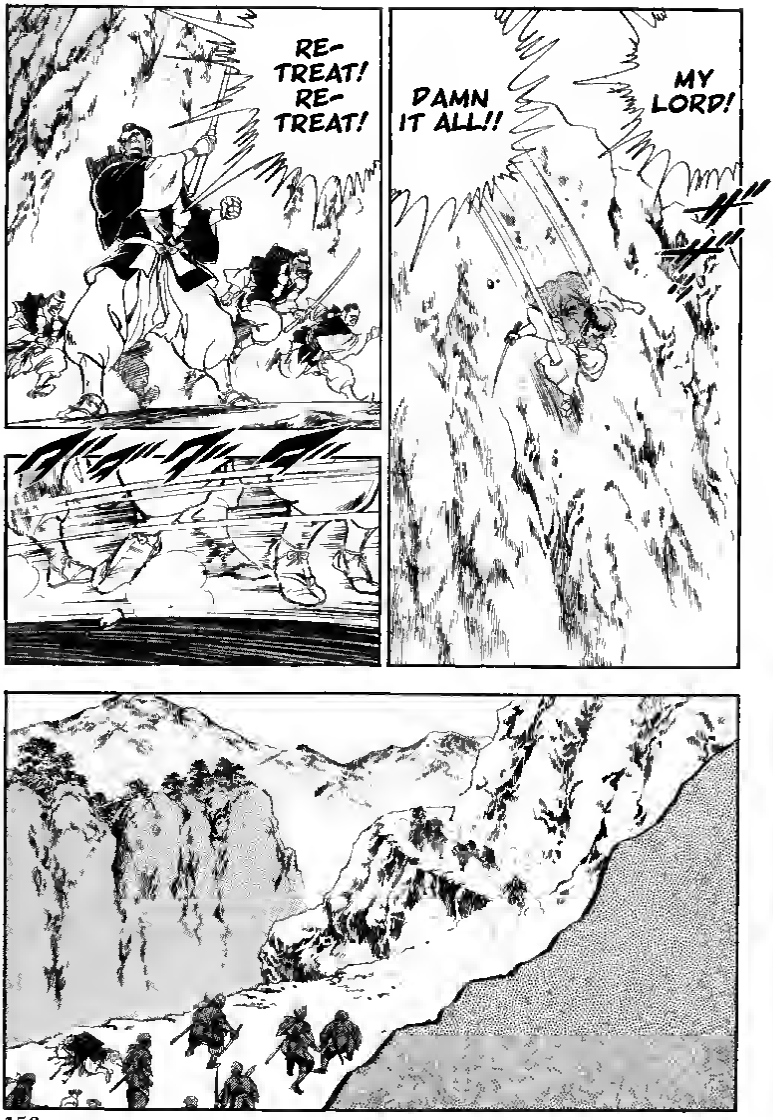
MY LOOOO OOOO OOOO ORD!!

You are sickening bastards, indeed.
I believe Takigawa Kazumasa once said that it was like crossing your blade with mist.
I could say I am crossing blades with ninja... but my blade is meeting nothing but air
I should've had you all killed.
Now to finish you off...

I see now. I can slay you if I lure you in...
OFF WITH HIS HEAD!!
KILL HIM!
YEEAA HHHH HHH!!

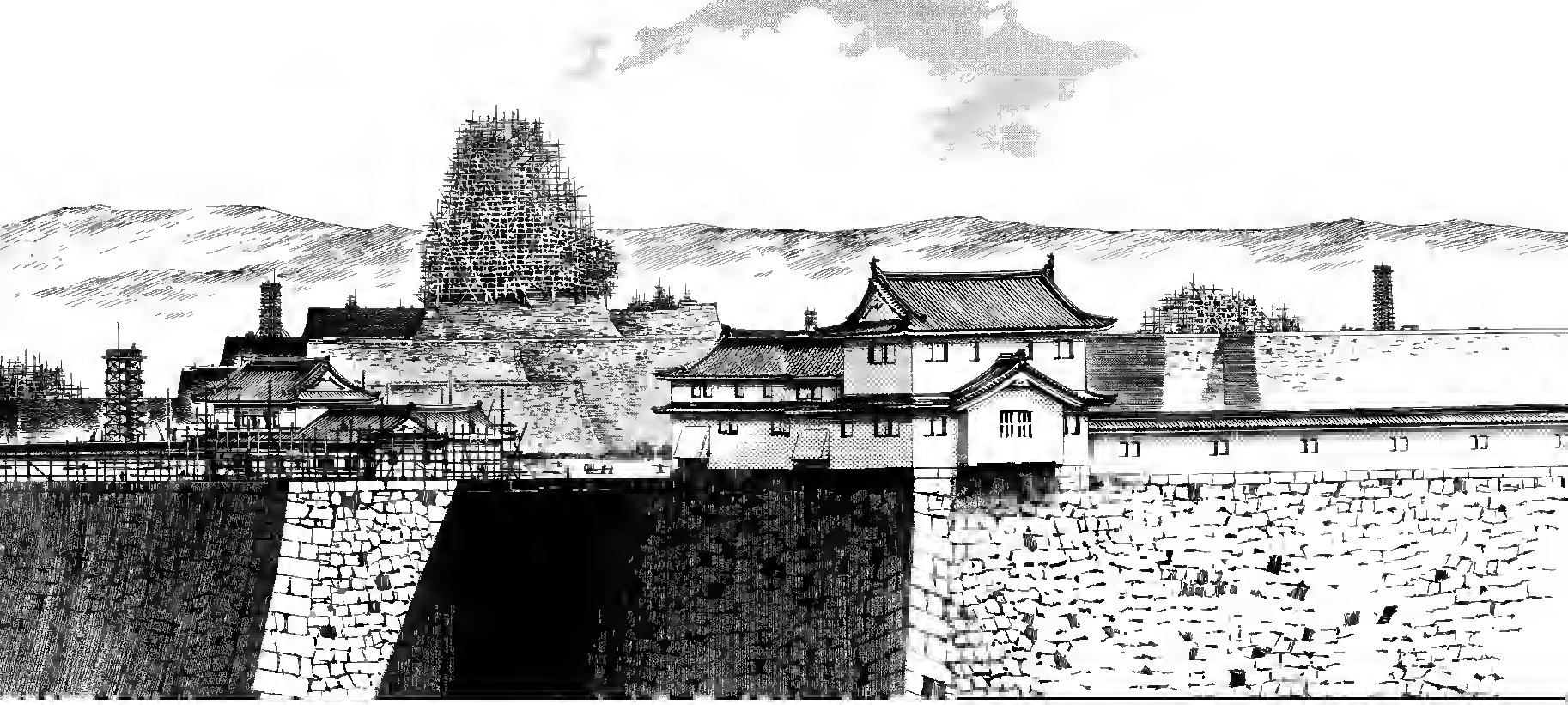
WAAA AAAAAA UGH! MY LOOOOO OOOOOO OORD!




RE-
TREAT!
RE-
TREAT!
DAMN
IT ALL!!
MY
LORD!

We were too late...
These kunai are used by the ninjas of Shiso Village.
That would be futile...
What shall we do? Shall we search the swamp?
I see. So they're men of Kuroda Kanbei...
Shiso Village in the Province of Harima

*A POISON MADE FROM THE DRIED ROOT OF WOLFSBANE



Lord Oda Nobutaka..

That is something to look forward to...

I will be able to move in to Osaka Castle by June.

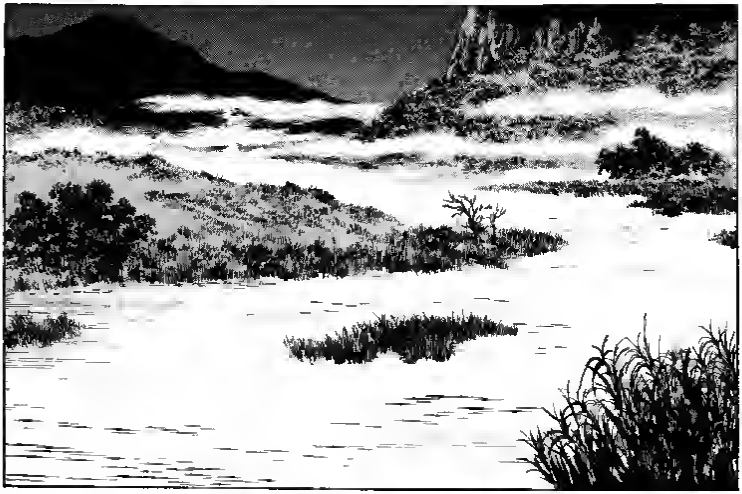
ever since they went Falconing in Kira.

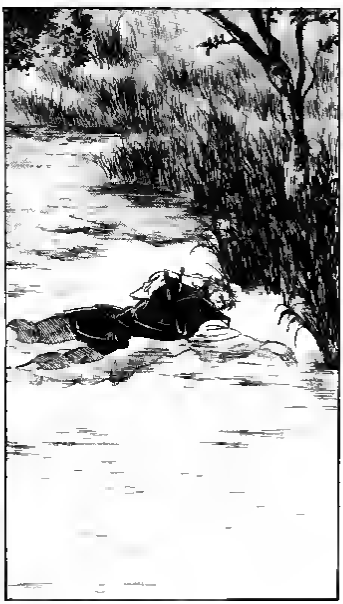
has been Frequently exchanging letters with Lord Tokugawa...

Ieyasu will be left with two choices.
By the time Osaka Castle is complete...
Does he intend to put up Nobukatsu and raise an army against me, while I am trying to consolidate the nation?
Ieyasu is not like Katsuie.
And if he engages you in battle, Nobukatsu will be the perfect excuse.
Either he will become your vassal, or he will engage you in battle, ready to lose everything.
I see you are frightened.

Are you not afraid that Oda Nobunaga will join the service of Tokugawa Ieyasu?
What ...?
What are you trying to say...?
You can show yourself at your best when there is no one above you.
Simply that you must regard the nation without giving heed to any other.

and go forth in your conquest!
Rest assured.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, KANBEI!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
Tell him that I would like to meet him...
Send a messenger to Oda Nobukatsu of Nagashima.
to hinder you!!
There is no one left...





HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

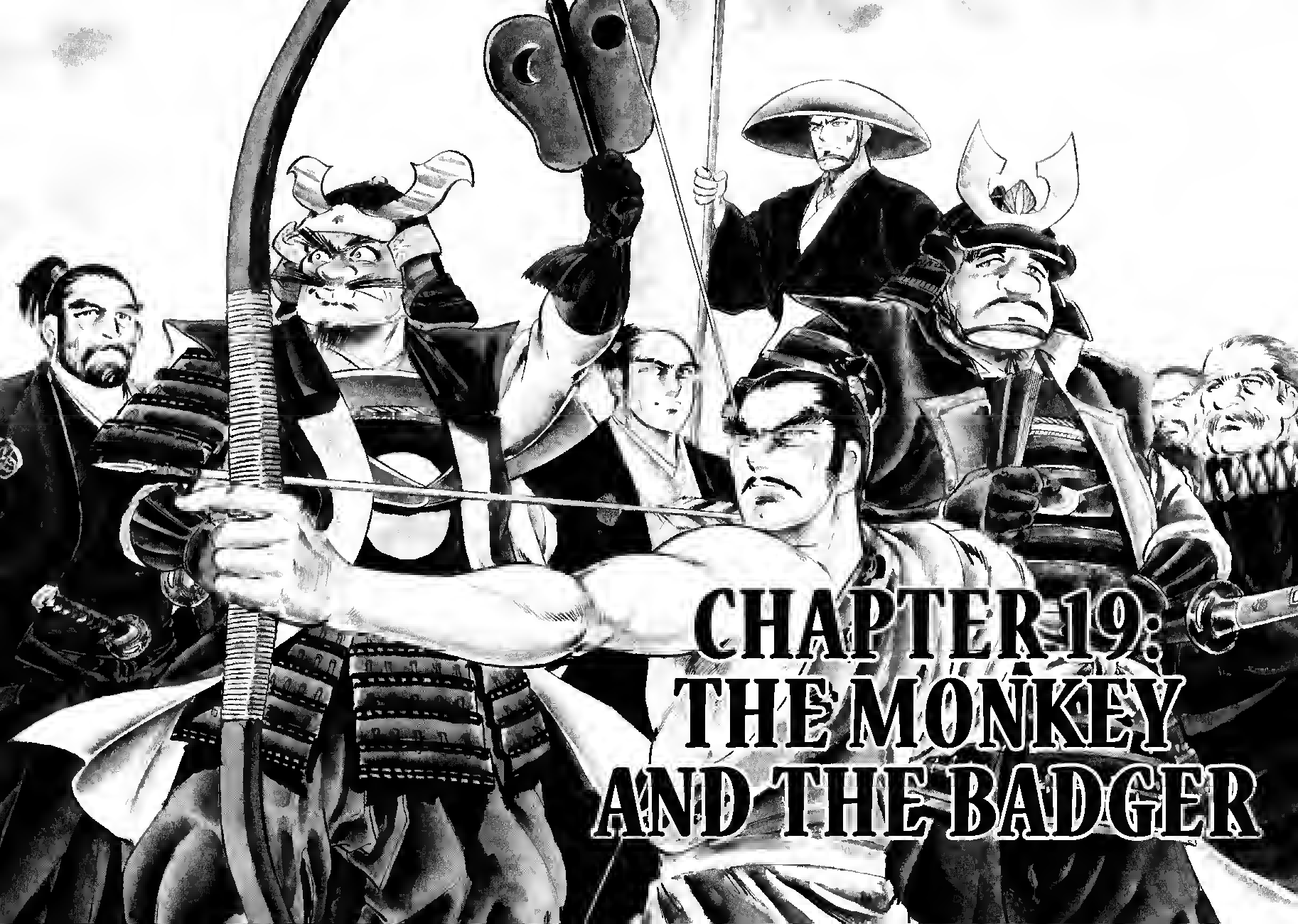
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

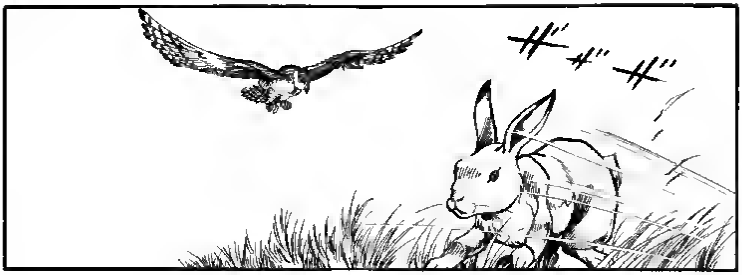
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 18



CHAPTER 19: THE MONKEY AND THE BADGER

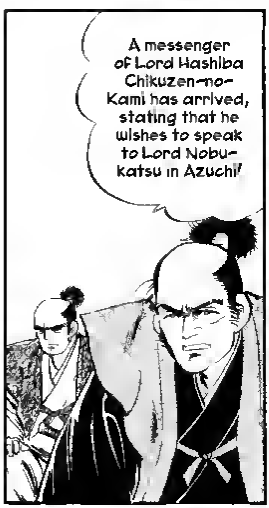


That damned Hideyoshi is finally baring his fangs at me!

Now that Nobutaka is dead, it will be I, Oda Nobukatsu, that he will purge as the thorn in his side.
He claims he fights to protect the Oda Clan, yet he keeps laying his claim on what belonged to my Father!

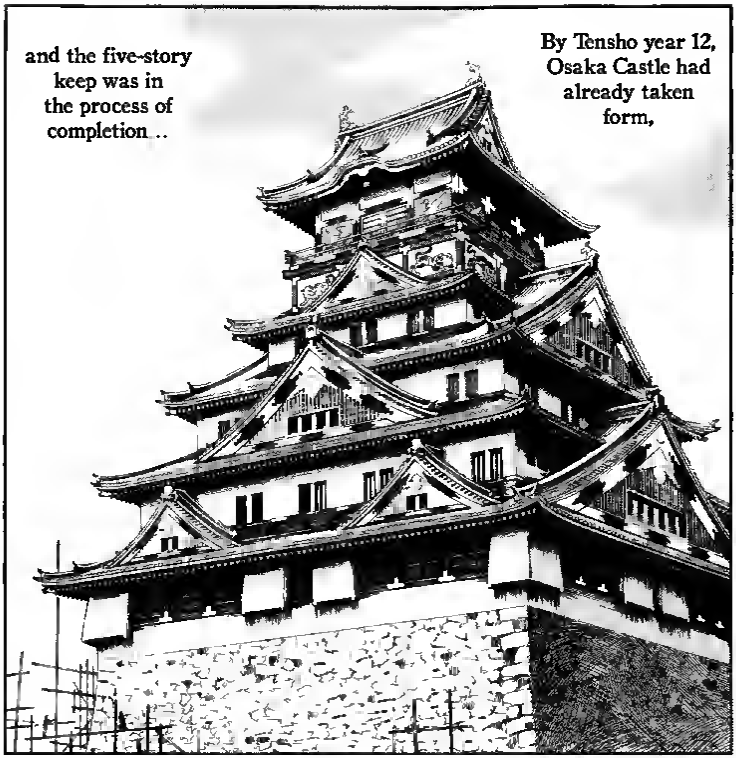
Will you join Lord Chikuzen...
Or will you fight in the name of Oda?

What do you intend to do?
What do you mean...?

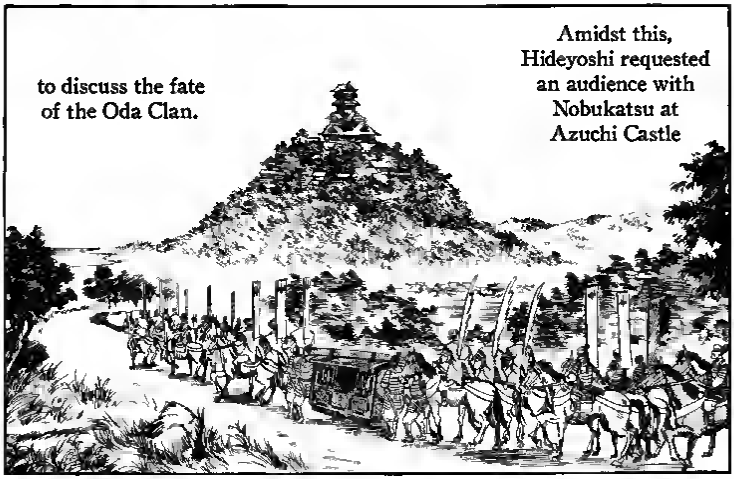

A messenger of Lord Hashiba Chikuzen-no-Kami has arrived, stating that he wishes to speak to Lord Nobu-katsu in Azuchi!

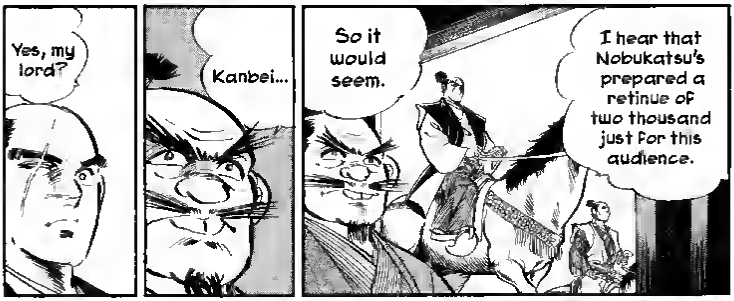
Reporting in!

Lord Nobu-katsu...
What!?
D...
then I, Ieyasu, will support you with all of my might.
If it is your intention to wage war in the name of Oda,
does not lie.
Tokugawa Ieyasu...
Do you mean that, Lord Tokugawa?


and the five-story keep was in the process of completion...
By Tensho year 12, Osaka Castle had already taken form,

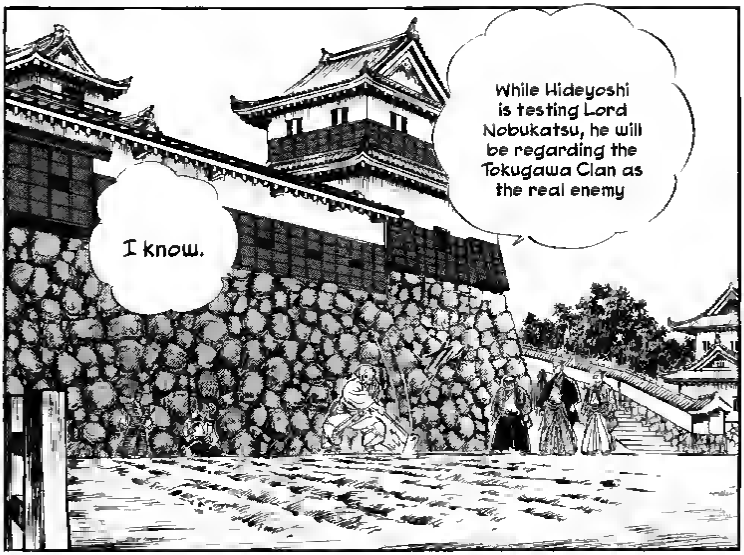
expanding his power ever more in the East...
Meanwhile, Ieyasu had subjugated Kai and Shinano and formed an alliance with the Hojo of Odawara.

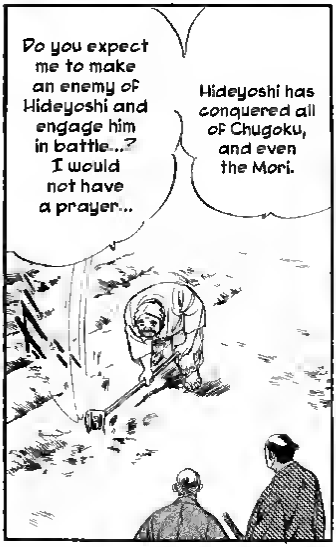

to discuss the fate of the Oda Clan.
Amidst this, Hideyoshi requested an audience with Nobukatsu at Azuchi Castle

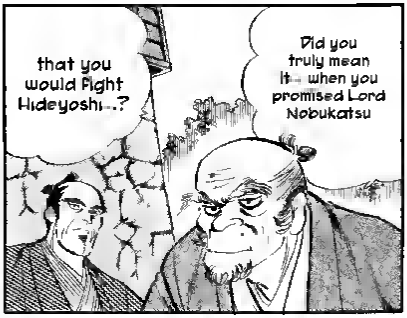

Yes, my lord?
Kanbei...
So it would seem.
I hear that Nobukatsu's prepared a retinue of two thousand just for this audience.

Heh hehhe!
It's the devil of suspicion and jealousy!
The human heart has a small devil living in it.. And it's in everyone's heart

that he would support me on all fronts.
said that if I were to engage Hideyoshi in battle in the name of the Oda,
The lord Tokugawa...
Yes, my lord?
My Oda blood will not permit me to stand downwind of that monkey ..
I have made up my mind...

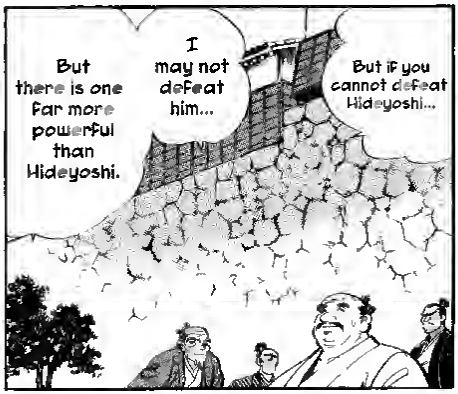

While Hideyoshi is testing Lord Nobukatsu, he will be regarding the Tokugawa Clan as the real enemy
I know.


Do you expect me to make an enemy of Hideyoshi and engage him in battle...? I would not have a prayer...
Hideyoshi has conquered all of Chugoku, and even the Mori.


that you would fight Hideyoshi...?
Did you truly mean it— when you promised Lord Nobukatsu

What are you, dense..?

There is only one path we can take. Just as Zhuge Kongming divided all of China into three kingdoms and ended the civil war with their equilibrium...
Then what do you intend to do?
We will divide Japan into two

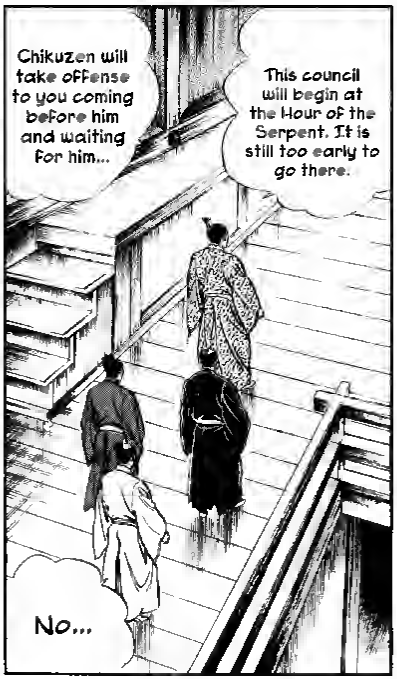

But there is one far more powerful than Hideyoshi.
I may not defeat him...
But if you cannot defeat Hideyoshi...

We must maintain equilibrium and put an end to the conflict
We will divide it into East and West. Hideyoshi will have the West, while Ieyasu rules the East

He would not die...
The Devil King is not dead!

He must arrive first...
If for no other reason than to remind Hideyoshi of who the master is.

R-Right...


This council will begin at the Hour of the Serpent. It is still too early to go there.
Chikuzen will take offense to you coming before him and waiting for him...
No...

HAH HA!
Well, I'm just glad to see you well!
We both sure had a hard time punishing Katsuie!

HAH HA HA!
Long time no see, Lord Nobukatsu!
Well, well, well!

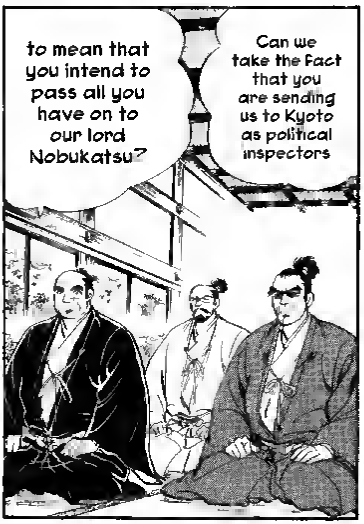
Let us open our hearts to one another and speak with no reserve.
Now, now, we are both trusted friends.

You must be tired of standing!
Go on, have a seat!
Now, Nobukatsu...
Did you call me Nobu-katsu..?

I must have you go up to Kyoto,
and keep an eye on the politics of the nation...
W...What do you mean?
Now, don't be concerned. It would be most arduous for you to go to Kyoto yourself to study, would it not?
The nation's politics are quite complicated. They must be studied in great depth.
Why do you not entrust me with your three retainers...?
I wish to teach them the ABCs of government in your place.

If you leave those three in my care, they can monitor me for any changes in my disposition.
and who would plot to break us up...
But that is not all. There are those who are jealous of our friendship...
Is it not?
WA AAH HA!
WA AAH HA!
Well, this is a good idea, if I say so myself!

Do not be swayed.


Can we take the fact that you are sending us to Kyoto as political inspectors
to mean that you intend to pass all you have on to our lord Nobukatsu?

to join with Ieyasu, defy me, and disrupt this nation once more!
I am telling you, do not be swayed...
What are you insinuating?
W-
I AM WELL AWARE THAT NOBUKATSU IS IN LEAGUE WITH IEYASU!!
YOU FOOLS!
And what have you been doing!?
You are retainers charged by our late lord to protect Nobukatsu.

He intends to set Nobukatsu against me and use him to gauge my strength.
Ieyasu is trying to test my power.
and if Nobukatsu gives me trouble, he will attack me at once.
If he finds my power to be incomparable to his own, he will submit to me,
Nobukatsu's being used as a stalking-horse!
Haven't you figured out Ieyasu's wily tricks yet...?

If I am forced to do battle with Lord Nobunaga's son in Ieyasu's hands...
It would pain me far too much..
Tell him he must never draw steel against me no matter what..
Now that you understand, you must persuade Nobukatsu not to challenge me to war
YES, MY LORD!

saying that Nobukatsu's three retainers have been won over by Hideyoshi and have betrayed Nobukatsu...
Spread a rumor
Understood, my lord.
Kanbei.
Yes, my lord?
That is when we will draw Ieyasu in and fight the final battle!
He will lose his three sharpest retainers, and will use that as a pretext to drag us into war, killing two birds with one stone
is sure to have his retainers slain!
That damned Nobukatsu...

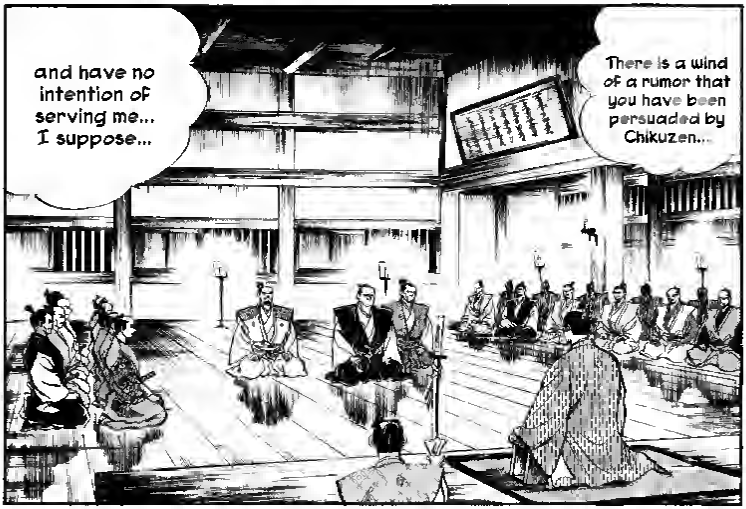
Now that is Hashiba Chikuzen-no-Kami Hideyoshi at his best.
Hehhe...
You made use of the devil living in the hearts of man, did you not?
I will say it again.. You can show yourself at your best when you can reign over the nation and act as you please.
You are not content with your lot to be beneath others.
THE GODS ARE DESIRING THE NATION I WILL BUILD!
I AM MORE TALENTED THAN NOBUNAGA EVER WAS!
Precisely.
Hehhe...

No matter...
March 6th, Tensho year 12
Ise Nagashima Castle
Castle of Oda Nobukatsu

we are strictly opposed to engaging Hideyoshi's army in battle.
how many times Ieyasu says he will support us with all his might,

Knew what ...?

I knew it.


There is a wind of a rumor that you have been persuaded by Chikuzen...
and have no intention of serving me... I suppose...

T... That is but a rumor... Lord Chikuzen's preferred tactic!
It is not that! We are thinking of what is best for the nation!

that the rumors are true.

Now is the time for you to bide your time!
Please, do not start a war...

THAT MONKEY WILL TAKE EVERY-THING FROM ME WHILE I BIDE MY TIME!!

What have you done...?
Takigawa Katsutoshi...
Damn you...
BRING ME THAT MONKEY'S HEAD!!
ALL OF YOU, PREPARE FOR WAR!!
Your deaths were already set in stone before this war council began.
Silence! These were my lord's orders.
F... Forgive me...
M...My lord...

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

WRITTEN BY MOTOMIYA HIROSHI

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS

PROOFREADING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX

EDITING BY HIGHTIDE

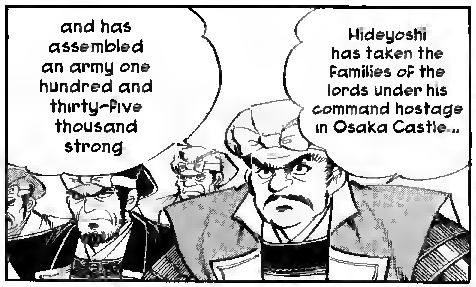
QUALITY CHECKING BY KAZUHIKO

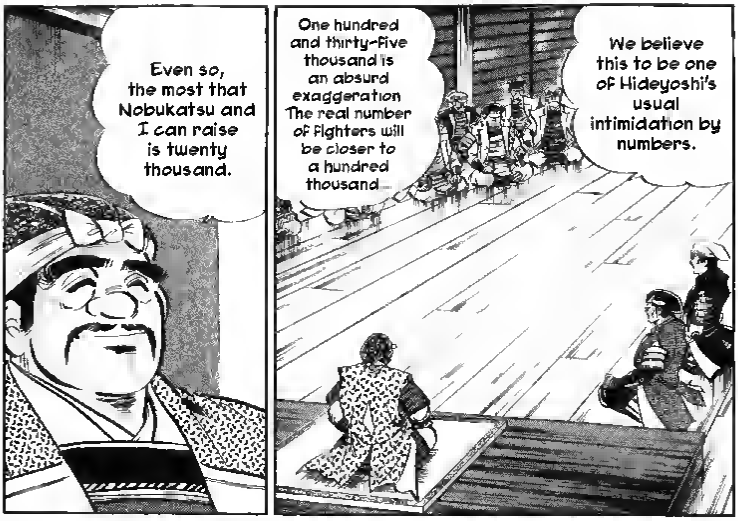
CHAPTER 19

Chapter 20:
The Monkey's Ambition

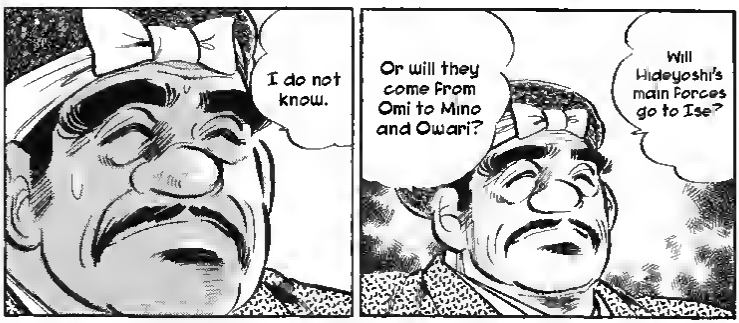
Hideyoshi marched his army tens of thousands strong from Osaka to Omi...

March 11th
Tensho year 12

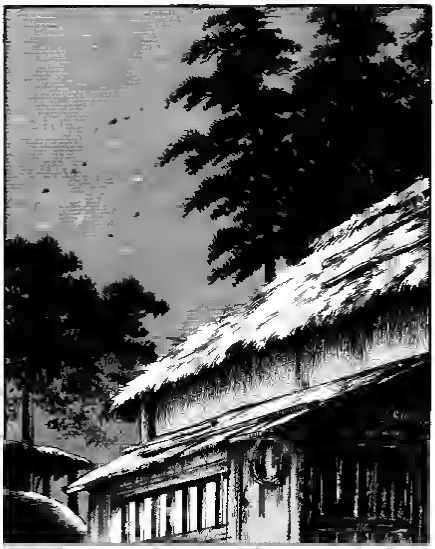

and has assembled an army one hundred and thirty-five thousand strong
Hideyoshi has taken the families of the lords under his command hostage in Osaka Castle...


Even so, the most that Nobukatsu and I can raise is twenty thousand.
One hundred and thirty-five thousand is an absurd exaggeration. The real number of fighters will be closer to a hundred thousand...
We believe this to be one of Hideyoshi's usual intimidation by numbers.

and Lord Nobukatsu has thrice requested reinforcements be sent to Ise.
Hashiba Hidekatsu has already led a detachment to Ise,

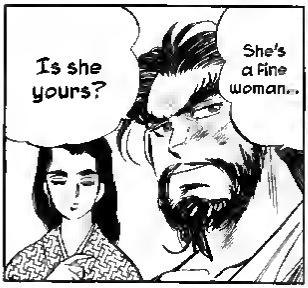

I do not know.
Or will they come from Omi to Mino and Owari?
Will Hideyoshi's main forces go to Ise?

He has not returned yet
Where is Hanzo?
Is he still away!?
Unless he...
returns alive to serve at my side.. the Tokugawa..
will have to live as Hideyoshi's slaves..



ガバッ

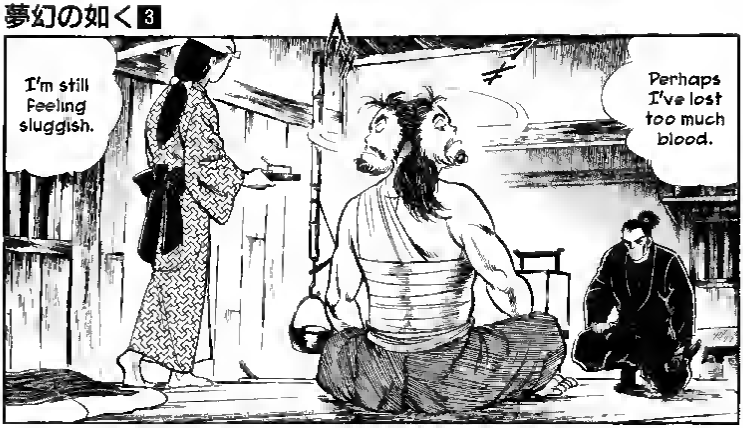
The fact that you have the vitality to sleep with a woman


Is she yours?
She's a fine woman...

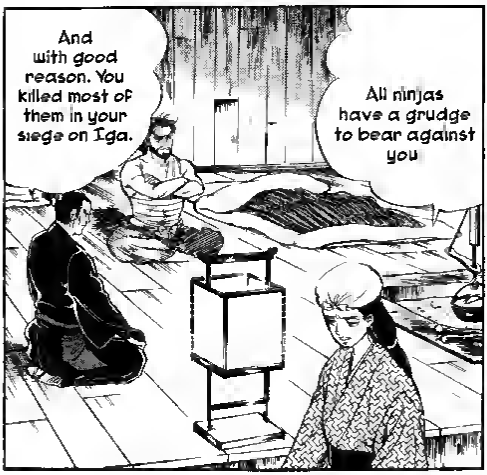
is evidence that you have recovered.

so you no longer have any cause for concern.
She has knowledge of all kinds of medicinal and venomous herbs,

She is my sister.

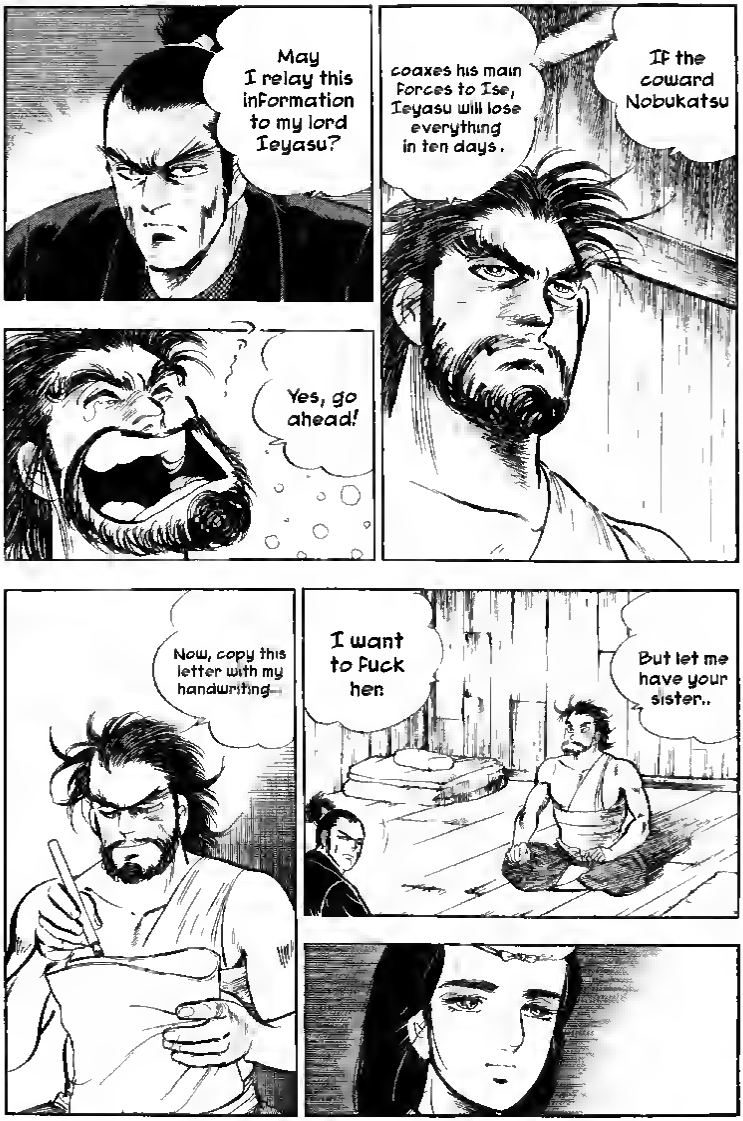

I'm still feeling sluggish.
Perhaps I've lost too much blood.

Otherwise, you would be char food about now.
When you fell into the valley, you bled into the river, preventing the venom from flowing into you.


And with good reason. You killed most of them in your siege on Iga.
All ninjas have a grudge to bear against you

I really dislike ninjas...

Yet you have spared my life for Ieyasu...
You have killed my clansmen
That depends on you.
And Ieyasu wants to fight back?
Hideyoshi has marched from Osaka with an army a hundred thousand strong...
while he goes through Gifu and Kiyosu to attack Ieyasu's base of Mikawa.
The monkey intends to feign an attack on Ise to draw Ieyasu's main forces to Ise,


May I relay this information to my lord Ieyasu?
Yes, go ahead!
If the coward Nobukatsu coaxes his main forces to Ise, Ieyasu will lose everything in ten days.
Now, copy this letter with my handwriting.
I want to fuck her!
But let me have your sister..

will turn red in the face when he reads it!
That cowardly monkey..
and put it up on a bulletin along the road the monkey is marching down.
THEN HE WILL TURN BLUE IN THE FACE WHEN HE RECOGNIZES THE HAND-WRITING...
HEY, YOU STUPID MONKEY!! HOW DARE YOU FORGET YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AS A SANDAL-FETCHER AND TRY TO SLAY THE SON OF LORD NOBUNAGA, WHOM YOU ARE INDEBTED TO! YOU'RE BUT A MERE MONKEY, SO GO AND SCRATCH YOUR ASS! OTHERWISE I'LL COME AND KILL YOU!!
GWAAAH-HAHAHA-HAAAAAA AAAAAH!

GWAHHAHA! SO THAT IS YOUR PLAN, IEYASU!
I SEE! HOW AMUSING!
THAT BASTARD TRULY INTENDS TO DEFY ME!
What!?
The Negoro and Saiga Uprisings of Kii have attacked Osaka in my absence?
Yes, my lord
We believe this to be Tokugawa Ieyasu's scheme
And they number over twenty thousand...
THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN WILL BE MINE, AND MINE ALONE!
NOW I WIN!

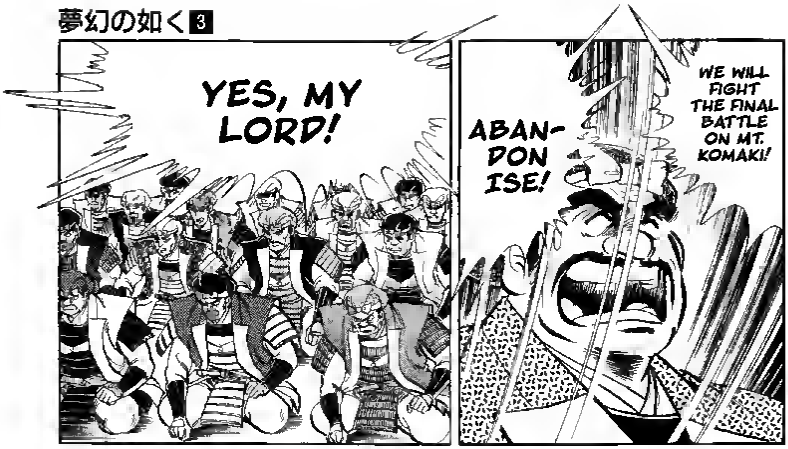
Up to this point, Ieyasu only appeared to be preparing for battle to keep appearances to Nobukatsu,
And once he saw me crush Nobukatsu, he would have withdrawn and come to apologize to me.

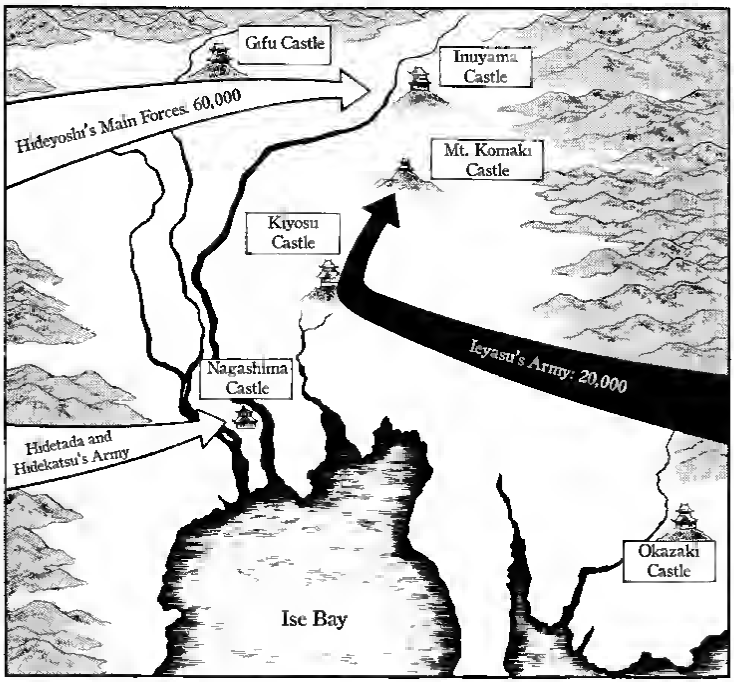
That would have meant I would leave Ieaysu's eastern kingdom untouched.
But Ieyasu attacked Osaka in my absence, which means he is serious!

Ieyasu truly and earnestly means to wage war against me!
Then I shall get serious as well!
I WILL UPROOT HIM AND CRUSH HIM!
I WILL NOT HAVE TO GIVE UP ANYTHING TO IEYASU! EVERYTHING SHALL BE MINE!

NAKAGAWA SADANARI, LORD OF INUYAMA CASTLE... UNDER LORD NOBUTAKA'S ORDERS,
REPORTING IN!
HAVE THEM BOTH BESIEGE INUYAMA CASTLE IMMEDIATELY!!
SEND A MESSAGE TO IKEDA TSUNEOKI AND MORI NAGAYOSHI!
SO HE'S TAKEN THE BAIT!
HAS LEFT HIS CASTLE VACANT AND MARCHED TO ISE!
YES, MY LORD!
OUR MAIN FORCES WILL MARCH STRAIGHT FROM MINO TO MIKAWA!!

INUYAMA CASTLE HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE ARMIES OF IKEDA TSUNEOKI AND MORI NAGAYOSHI!
REPORTING IN!
I knew it...
WHAT!?
He is marching through Mino!

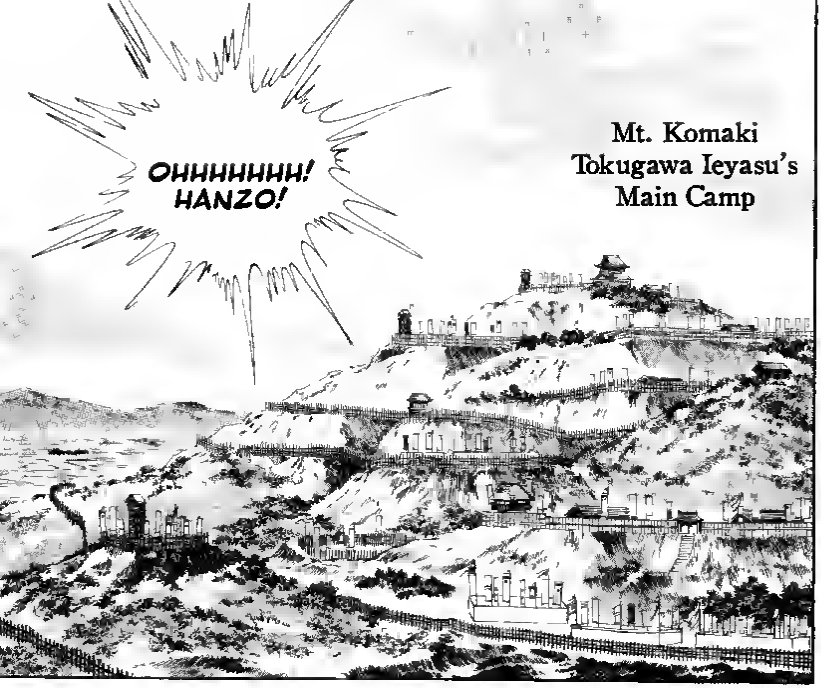

YES, MY LORD!
ABAN-DON ISE!
WE WILL FIGHT THE FINAL BATTLE ON MT. KOMAKI!


Gifu Castle
Inuyama Castle
Hideyoshi's Main Forces: 60,000
Mt. Komaki Castle
Kiyosu Castle
Ieyasu's Army: 20,000
Nagashima Castle
Hidetada and Hidekatsu's Army
Okazaki Castle
Ise Bay

But for a man and a woman to truly know one another;
I know it's your first time...
Loosen up a little...
.....
Here I go!
Urk!
I-
It hurts...
this is the best way... no, the only way.
There, it's done now...
It's alright, it's alright...
You and I are one flesh...
Just relax and trust me...

I think of you as a demon.
.....
Demon...
Such an Oda Nobunaga...
and is sleeping like a babe.
Yet that man has given his life in my hands,
The despicable man who killed my parents is right before my eyes.
You may be right.
A babe?
would bring me no pleasure in killing...

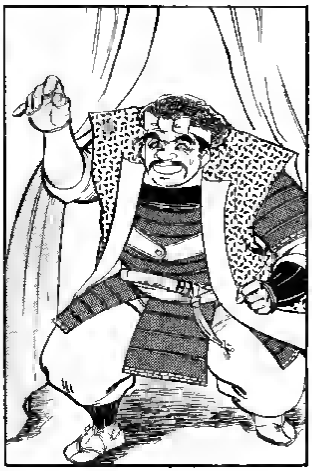
just like a babe...
No matter how old a man becomes, he always desires a woman's teat,
And a woman who can give that teat to him with a smile has the final victory..
Ah...
AHHHH HHHH!

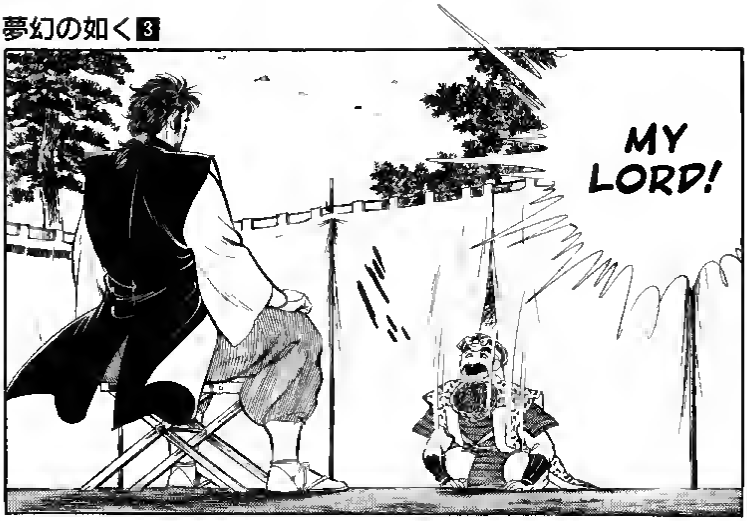

OHHHHHHH! HANZO!
Mt. Komaki
Tokugawa Ieyasu's
Main Camp

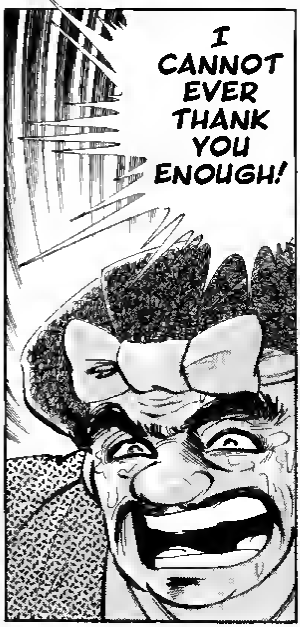
IS THAT TRUE!?
I realize I am late..
but I have brought Sir Tenchi Yumeno-suke..

Long time no see...

Take-chiyo.




MY LORD!


I CANNOT EVER THANK YOU ENOUGH!

between the monkey and the badger.
I have come to witness this battle...

HOKUTO NO GUN PRSENTS

YUME MABOROSHI NO GOTOKU

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CHAPTER 20